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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 65

SATURDAY - SUNDAY MARCH 17-18, 2012

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the
proposal to include
the CNMI in the
national food stamp
program?

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INSIDE

MAHARLIKA



The Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office will be offering five free training courses for the second quarter of 2012.

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NATION



The U.S. soldier accused of slaughtering 16 Afghan villagers last weekend saw his friend's leg blown off the day before the rampage, his lawyer said Thursday night.

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WORLD



Thousands of Syrians rallied Thursday in Damascus in a display of loyalty to President Bashar Assad.

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ACCORDING TO TOURISM SURVEY:

Tourists not interested in casinos

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tourism master plan of the CNMI yielded an interesting fact: casinos did not make it to the Top Ten list of activities and options that tourists from various destinations wanted to see or explore in the Commonwealth.

This was what Management Analysis Inc. president Art Smith and consultant Lynn Knight disclosed during the public presentation of the master plan for 2012-2016 yesterday at the Fiesta Resort &

Spa Hotel which saw the attendance of over 100 participants.

For this reason, Knight said the project team did not make a strong recommendation.

See TOURISTS on Page 4

'CNMI govt pays more for prisoners than on many employees' wages'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government spends an average of \$32,485 annually for housing and feeding an inmate, much more than it spends on the salary of the lowest-paid employees of \$10,000 to \$14,000 a year who also have to deal with a 16-hour pay cut biweekly because of austerity measures.

"It is disappointing to know that we pay more for inmates than we do pay many of our employees. We still have employees earning \$10,000 a year," Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*, as he talked about the purpose of his pre-filed bill that seeks to create the CNMI Prison Industries Act of 2012.

His bill seeks to teach inmates valuable job training and skills development—be it on carpentry, auto-mechanics, computer repair, or cooking—that will give them a foundation for success as they transition back to communities from which they came from.

Palacios said rather than costing CNMI taxpayers an average of \$32,485 per inmate per year for housing, his bill recommends implementing a prison industries program so that these inmates—once they are released from prison—would have valuable skills they can use to become productive members of the community.

The annual average spending of See PRISONERS on Page 4

TATTERED

A tattered American flag flutters in the wind in front of the legislative building on Capital Hill yesterday. While some say the government's financial problems are making it hard to buy new American flags, others say a worn out flag is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of national pride should be replaced and disposed of in a dignified manner.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



\$180M budget requests exceed projected revenue of \$102M in FY 2013

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government agencies' total budget requests reached some \$180 million, far exceeding the projected revenue available for government operations in fiscal year 2013 which is only \$102 million.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the major task now is to bring down the \$180 million to \$102 million between now and April 1, the deadline for submitting the

governor's budget to the Legislature.

"As always the total request exceeds the estimate resources. That's the reason for the Office of Management and Budget in conducting these meetings with the agencies right now to see if we can pare the budget requests down to the bare minimum and bare essentials. That's a work in progress," Inos said in an interview.



Inos

view right after receiving from the Marianas Visitors Authority a five-year tourism plan in the governor's conference room on Thursday afternoon.

The \$102-million budget in FY 2013 is the same level as the FY 2012, which includes the same austerity measures of 16-hour work cuts every two weeks and unpaid holidays.

"They always come high

with the expectation that they're going to go through a screening process that will eventually be brought down. At the end of the day, it's going to be \$102 million," said Inos, who oversees government finances.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview, said her panel will wait for the governor's transmittal of the proposed FY 2013 budget before conducting meetings.

See BUDGET on Page 4

Inos nominates two to PUC. PAGE 2

Judge Camacho dismisses charges vs ex-MCV staff. PAGE 3



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but wait a minute, who's the gecko?
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for adventure and travel.

**are you ready
to join us?**

Local

Inos nominates two to PUC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when he was acting governor on Wednesday, nominated two individuals to serve on the Public Utilities Commission, which only has one commissioner at the moment.

Inos nominated Joseph C. Guerrero to serve as a PUC commission representing

Saipan, and Zenie P. Mafnas to represent Tinian.

Guerrero and Mafnas's appointments require the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives.

If confirmed, each will serve a four-year term which expires on Feb. 25, 2016.

Inos, in separate letters to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker

Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), said Guerrero and Mafnas are highly qualified to fulfill the vital responsibilities of the commission.

The two nominees are required to immediately file a statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor, police clearance, drug test receipt and drug test result to the Office of the Governor for submission to the Legislature.

OAG wants probation of convicted robber revoked

The Office of the Attorney General has moved for the revocation of probation on man who was sentenced to an 18-month jail term in 2010 over an assault on a restaurant owner with a rock during a robbery.

Assistant attorney general Eileen Escudero Wisor said defendant Eric Aguon violated the terms and conditions of his suspended sentence.

Wisor said Aguon failed to obey all CNMI laws as he was arrested on Dec. 18, 2011 for disturbing the peace and for minor consuming alcohol.

Wisor said according to the Office of Adult Probation the defendant has not make any payments toward his court assessment fee of \$100; has an outstanding balance of 492

hours of community work service; and has failed to report to the Community Guidance Center since the date of referral on Nov. 17, 2011.

In October 2010, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced the then 18-year-old Aguon to seven years in prison, all suspended except 18 months, for assault with a dangerous weapon.

Naraja ordered Aguon to serve the jail term without the possibility of parole.

Aguon was given credit for the time he has been serving in jail since his arrest on May 1, 2010. The defendant's release date was Nov. 1, 2011.

Aguon admitted that on May 1, 2010, he went into the Chang Won Restaurant in Chalan

Kanoa armed with a rock, and threatened to injure the owner, Kyung Aea Jung, to get money.

The defendant and counsel signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. The remaining charges were dismissed.

Police officers learned that two individuals entered the restaurant, demanded money, and assaulted the owner with 2X4 lumber and large rocks.

Fearing for her life, the businesswoman gave cash to one of the suspects, then ran to the back room and sought assistance.

The surveillance camera in the establishment led to the identification of Aguon and his companion—a male juvenile. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Judge Camacho dismisses charges vs ex-MCV staff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted the government's motion to dismiss the charges against a former employee of the Marianas CableVision who allegedly provided free cable and Internet services to some customers.

At Wednesday's pre-trial conference, associate judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed without prejudice an information charging Fernando Callo Estella with theft of service and theft.

Dismissal without prejudice will allow the government to re-file the same case in the future.

Earlier that same day, Camacho rejected a second amended plea agreement that Estella entered with the government regarding Estella's criminal case and two traffic cases. The agreement proposed a total jail sentence of seven months for three cases.

With the rejection of the plea agreement, the Office of the Attorney General came back to court Wednesday afternoon and moved to dismiss the defendant's criminal charges without prejudice.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll in the motion to dismiss explained that their primary witness moved off-island, and they were concerned that they could not meet their burden at trial.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Estella, did not object.

Camacho said based on the representation of counsel that the government is unprepared and the unopposed motion, the case is hereby dismissed without prejudice.

Camacho also noted that the long delay in this case stems from the parties inaction.

With respect to the second amended plea agreement, Camacho said it attempts to dispose of three serious cases.

First, the judge said, the most serious charge holds a maximum sentence of 10 years, and the proposed agreement provides for a mere six months in total.

Second, Camacho said, he is concerned about the payment of restitution, particularly because Estella may shortly be facing deportation.

Third, Camacho said, the case has lingered for three years in large part because the government and defense counsels have allowed such a long time to elapse.

Fourth, he noted, the sentence and the terms are out of step with the standards of the court and the CNMI community for such serious charges.

Finally, Camacho said, he particularly notes that defendant has been charged not only with

serious crimes but with an attempt to cover up those crimes.

"Consequently, the court finds the sentence and terms unjust and unacceptable," said Camacho in the written order.

The court also rejected the original plea agreement last January for being too lenient. The original agreement recommended a jail sentence of four months for the three cases.

Driscoll said the increase in jail sentence from four months to seven months is substantial given that a key witness has left island and is therefore unavailable if the matter were to go to trial.

Driscoll said MCV's then manager, Mark Birmingham, is no longer on Saipan.

The prosecutor said Birmingham was the one who spearheaded the investigation of Estella within the company and witnessed the defendant trying to get incriminating information off of his computer after he was told to collect his things and leave the office.

With respect to the hit-and-run traffic case, Driscoll said the only physical injuries were to the defendant who spent several days in the hospital.

She said Estella has entered into a separate legal agreement with the victims in order to compensate them for the property damage he caused.

Driscoll said Estella came to Saipan when he was 4 years old, and his brothers were both born on the island, and his parents still live here.

All of Estella's children were also born on Saipan.

"This conviction may lead to his deportation to the Philippines, a country he has essentially never known, meaning that he can do no more harm in the CNMI," Driscoll added.

In the criminal case that was filed in 2009, police said MCV incurred \$12,561 in damages for unpaid services for both the cable boxes and the Internet modems.

Police said the defendant, as a dispatcher, allegedly took out several cable boxes and Internet modems and gave them to family members and friends for free premium cable channels and Internet services.

In June 2010, a traffic citation was issued charging Estella with failure to yield, hit-and-run causing injury, failure to file an accident report, making false reports, reckless driving causing injury, driving while under the influence of alcohol, no safety inspection, and no motor vehicle liability insurance.

In another traffic citation issued in December 2010, the defendant was charged with reckless driving causing injury and driving while under the influence of alcohol.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY McDONALD'S

From left, McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu, daughter and executive assistant to the president Mabel Ayuyu, and human resource and marketing manager Ana Olaes pose for a photo after an anniversary interview on Wednesday. McDonald's Saipan turns 19 today.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Judge also rejects defendant's plea agreement in theft case and 2 traffic cases



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MARCH 17, 2012



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Man ordered to remove fighting cocks from property

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man raising fighting cocks as a hobby was given by the Zoning Board and Office until 6pm tomorrow to remove the fowls from his property located in a village residential zone or pay civil fines of at least \$4,600.

The board made the decision during its meeting and an enforcement hearing last Wednesday, which was attended by about 20 neighbors of Rommel Ronquillo who keeps 32 roosters and several hens within his residence behind Marianas High School on Lot 056 H 14 along Texas Road in Susupe.

The Zoning Office issued Ronquillo, who works for the U.S. Customs and

Border Protection, a notice of violation on Feb. 8 for operating a farm within a village residential zone without a permit. Ronquillo was given until Feb. 13 to correct the violation and was assessed a penalty of \$200 per day for each day that the violation remained uncorrected.

Ronquillo's farming activity is an unpermitted use in a village residential zoning district based on the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 Section 512(a).

"The purpose of a village residential zoning district is to promote a residential community environment that is quiet, safe, and family and pedestrian-friendly," the law stated.

Indicating his willingness to resolve the situation, Ronquillo met with act-

ing Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro on Feb. 13 to discuss his two options: relocate to a permitted zone or remain in his present property, which he leased for a year, but without engaging in farming.

Ronquillo, who was given until Feb. 20 to comply, then filed on Feb. 21 for a notice of appeal to the board and seek variance to continue raising the roosters within his property.

But Ronquillo's neighbors have continued to complain to the Zoning Office about these roosters which crow incessantly day in and day out, saying that the noise they make have significantly affected their everyday lives.

Ronquillo's property is close to an apartment complex, wherein tenants have already warned their landlord that they will move out should the request for variance be approved.

During Wednesday's hearing, Ronquillo told the board that he was unaware of any law that prohibits anyone to raise roosters in one's backyard, adding that he thought the zoning law applied only to businesses.

Ronquillo disclosed that he previously stayed in San Vicente but didn't receive any complaints from his neighbors. With the situation, he tried to look for a place where he can transfer his roosters but couldn't find one.

Asked by the board what he would do with the roosters should he not find another place where farming is allowed, Ronquillo said his only option is to kill all the roosters.

Attorney Juan N. Lizama, counsel for Ed Klingbergs who owns the apartment complex next to Ronquillo's property, said at the hearing that unpermitted farming in the area is a "very, very serious activity" and that an "expeditious action" on the part of Ron-

quillo should ensue.

Klingbergs' tenant, Calla Eichenberger, said she and her family's sleeping habits have completely changed because of the noise of the roosters, which also causes them to spend more for their utilities since they are left with no choice but to turn on the aircon to drown the roosters' incessant crowing.

Another tenant, Josh Reuvers, made the board listen to the roosters' noise which he recorded on his laptop.

The board, represented by legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu, discussed the matter during an executive session, after which they made their decision to give Ronquillo to remove the roosters by 6pm tomorrow.

"If the [roosters] are not removed by Sunday at 6pm, then the entire fine including the days that have lapsed

since will be in full effect and the board will use its enforcement power to levy that fine and collect that fine," said Mocanu.

But Ronquillo asked if the chickens have to be removed from his property as well. While some of Ronquillo's neighbors said at the meeting that they have no problem if his hens will stay since they don't make noise, others raised concerns that keeping hens will still be considered farming activity, thus, unpermitted in the area.

The board recommended that Ronquillo can keep at most six hens in his property. Mocanu, however, advised that Ronquillo also start looking for a home for the hens and that the board will soon issue a written opinion that will indicate if the law allows for Ronquillo to keep the hens.

RED CROSS HEROES

Name: Lucio Aldan
Occupation: Executive Manager
Work Place: Coral Ocean Point
Native of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands



"I came to the American Red Cross in 2006 not knowing what to expect," Aldan said. Since then, Aldan has risen through the ranks to become a senior Lifeguard instructor. He has trained several hundred members of the NMI community in lifesaving skills. Aldan said it has been a rewarding experience being a part of ARC as an instructor. "I get a feeling of satisfaction knowing more people in the community are trained in CPR and First Aid," he said. "The feeling is immeasurable." Aldan said he continues to train people because it is his way of giving back to the community. "I love to train people," he

said, "and I will continue to train people to make our communities safer places to live."

For more information on volunteering opportunities, please contact the NMI Chapter at 670-234-3459 or visit www.Redcross.org.

TOURISTS

From Page 1

dation about casinos as based on the responses received from survey respondents in the master plan.

What the survey found, she revealed, is that first-time and repeat visitors are still more interested in exploring nature. Knight, however, pointed out that by this result, it does not mean that the casino idea is bad or better for the island.

According to Smith, among the five areas of origin they examined in the exit survey, none identified casinos as among the things they are interested to see in the CNMI. This despite the differences of interests found among tourists from Japan, Korea, China, Russia, Guam, and other markets.

Smith disclosed that based on the survey result, 79 percent of Japanese who visit the islands would like to see more of nature and scenic attractions, while 35 percent are looking forward for marine and sea life exhibit. It was also found out that among the tourists, Japanese visitors indicated a high level of satisfaction and experience in the CNMI.

Data showed that Japanese tourists recorded an average length of stay of 3.3 nights and repeat visitors account for 40.5 percent. During their stay, average on-island expenditure is \$758.20. It was revealed that 84 percent come to the islands because of its tropical climate, sea, and beaches while 32 per-

cent come for nature activities, and 20 percent for scuba diving.

If Japanese visitors are well satisfied with their visit, Koreans are less satisfied with their vacation because of value and pricing they experience on island.

Of the Top Ten activities they like to see more here are the local food (38 percent); and open market/night market (32 percent). Based on the survey, Koreans stayed on island at least four nights and repeat visitors are 15.5 percent. Their on-island expenditure is estimated at \$568.73 and 67 percent of them come for the tropical climate while 37 percent are interested in nature activities. Scuba diving and honeymoons and weddings accounted only 10 percent and 12 percent, respectively. From Korea, only 3 percent of visitors come to CNMI to play golf.

Meantime, 82 percent of Chinese visitors explore the CNMI because of its sea and beaches; 71 percent come for nature activities; and 28 percent for scuba diving. Chinese tourists average length of stay is four nights and repeat visitors account for 4 percent. In their next visit, Chinese want to see more of marine and sea life (43 percent); nature and scenic attraction (41 percent); and night clubs (39 percent).

For Russian tourists, a significant percentage visit the islands to shop (50 percent); nature/scenic attractions (47 percent); and night clubs (40 percent).

The survey indicated that for visitors from Guam and U.S., they want to see

more of shopping centers in the CNMI, more scenic attractions, outdoor camping or ecolodge.

No impact on pending casino plans

Despite hearing the result of the master plan's survey, vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) said this will not bear any impact on their plan to push for casino on Saipan.

"It's no secret that casino is not a new concept and it's a growing industry all over the world. Like in the U.S., more casinos are being erected because they see that it brings more tourists. So even though it is not among the top interests [on the survey], still there was a mention that there are tourists who said that it is one of the many great ideas to implement when they come again," Basa told *Saipan Tribune* during yesterday's public presentation.

He disclosed that despite the passage of previous casino bills at the House, a popular initiative is being finalized for the November election.

Basa said as an advocate for casino, he is not saying that the casino idea will be the silver bullet for the economic distress of the CNMI, but one of the many revenue-generating approaches that can revitalize the economy.

Ogumoro, for her part, said the result of the survey cannot stop them from pushing for the casino initiative. "In fact, we're finalizing the final documents so we can start the signature drive," she said.

PRISONERS

From Page 1

\$32,485 for each inmate excludes medical expenses, said Palacios, citing figures from the Department of Corrections.

Such a proposed prison industry would provide a means for inmates to receive job training and skills development, provide opportunities for the earning of wages to be used to pay restitution to victims of crime, payment of fines and court costs, and provide additional means for funding recurring expenses of the Department of Corrections/Department of Public Safety.

The department shall separate and designate each prison industry to be established as occurring "within the secured perimeter" or "outside the secured perimeter."

"Prison industries in the United States have proven that many of their graduates become law-abiding and taxpaying citizens instead of being a lifelong drain on their states' coffers," Palacios said in his House Bill 17-285.

Palacios said the CNMI's prison population continues to grow "mainly because our recidivism rates are high."

"Many of our former inmates return to prison," he added.

Ramon B. Camacho, chairman of the CNMI Board of Parole, said he is strongly supporting and endorsing Palacios' bill.

He said the proposed prison industry, which provides programs for inmates, is "very important to the parole system."

Camacho also made recommendations on how the bill could be improved, including fund collection to be able to hire a counselor for one-on-one sessions with inmates to address any

psychological issues they may have so that they "do the right thing and not return to the (prison) system."

The Board of Parole chair also suggested that funds should be closely monitored by an advisory board to ensure they are used for their intended purpose.

"Products manufactured by inmates should replicate our culture and of interest to the community as well as to our tourist visitors. DOC should market finished products at gift shops and other festivities to promote what the inmates are making within the correctional facility," Camacho said.

Under the bill, a Correctional Advisory Board will be established to advise Corrections/DPS on the suitability of any industry to be established, and may assist the department on related matters including the establishment, operation and maintenance of a chosen industry.

The bill also establishes earnings formula, so that each inmate participating in a prison industry shall have all wages earned subject to this earnings formula, including using 25 percent for transporting inmates to and from work sites and 25 percent for payment of court-ordered fines, fees and restitution.

Another 25 percent will go toward a Prison Industries Revolving Fund, and the remaining 25 percent will go toward each inmate's account. Each participating inmate may elect to provide up to 100 percent of the 25 percent for child and spousal support.

"In lieu of wages earned, the participating inmate's sentence shall be reduced by one day for each 40 hours of work done," the bill says.

There will be criteria set to determine inmates' eligibility to participate in the program.

BUDGET

From Page 1

ings with agencies.

Taimanao, however, said the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee continues its budget sessions with certain departments and agencies to tackle their actual spending and allotments in the first quarter of 2012. She said the panel hopes that agencies will no longer incur deficits in 2013.

Taimanao said this early, her committee has already found out that some agencies' spending has already exceeded their allotment.

"My committee will be coming up with a report on its findings; for example, which agencies are overspending and how much they have overspent," Taimanao said.

Virginia Villagomez, the governor's special assistant for management and budget, and her staff have been meeting with agencies to review their budget submission, as well as determine whether their departments maximized the use of federal funds within program authority in times of serious financial and cash constraints.

Without a budget passed by Oct. 1, the government will have to shut down until a new budget is passed.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oceanside Bar n' Grill is gradually carving a name as the new place to be on Saipan, attracting the attention of a growing number of customers wandering the island in quest of a restaurant serving great food in a casual atmosphere.

Conveniently located in Garapan, Oceanside Bar n' Grill stands proud at what was once the setting for an ordinary bar which has been transformed into a fresh and spacious neighborhood spot with minimalist décor and subdued lighting.

It was on Feb. 20 when owner Marilyn Ronquillo first opened the doors of Oceanside Bar n' Grill to the community albeit without much fanfare, relying mainly on word-of-mouth recommendations from a handful of diners stopping by.

Still, Oceanside Bar n' Grill has found a way to make a name for itself and will surely grow into one of the hotspots down town as it holds its grand opening tonight. This place offers a selection of delightful appetizers and scrumptious entrees that can be paired with any of their cocktail and non-alcoholic drinks—all at very affordable prices.

"We're offering a variety of food choices in a laid-back venue for an enjoyable dining experience for all our customers," said Ronquillo, who moved

OCEANSIDE BAR & GRILL

The new place to be on Saipan



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Oceanside Bar n' Grill owner Marilyn Ronquillo, seated center, is flanked by her employees last week. Located at the former Flair Bar, Oceanside Bar n' Grill will have its grand opening today.

about a year ago from Oceanside, California, the namesake for this new place that's buzzing even on a weeknight.

According to Ronquillo, she and her husband enjoy spending their time going out and dining in restaurants that give them their money's worth for

the ambiance and quality of food. When they moved to Saipan, she thought of starting a business that they themselves can appreciate, giving birth to Oceanside Bar & Grill which serves highly popular and well-loved

dishes on island with a twist. Try their poki, cubed fresh tuna with a hint of sesame oil and topped with spring onions (\$8) or go with the flaming creamy baked mussels served in a sizzling plate (\$6). The generous serving

of beef short ribs entrée comes with salad and a scoop of rice (\$8). Complimentary nacho chips with homemade salsa are also served to patrons waiting for their order to come in.

Oceanside Bar N' Grill also boasts of its own alcohol concoctions with its extensive list



Ninth Circuit certifies 2 legal questions for CNMI Supreme Court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has certified two legal questions for the CNMI Supreme Court in connection with the CNMI government's appeal from the federal court's orders that favored Ememenciana Peter-Palican in her lawsuit against the government for terminating her in 2006 as special assistant for Women's Affairs.

The Ninth Circuit judges stayed all further proceedings in Peter-Palican's case pending receipt of the answer to the certified questions.

The judges said resolution of this appeal depends on Commonwealth Law and that they

find no controlling precedent in the decisions of the CNMI Supreme Court.

The Ninth Circuit judges said the CNMI Supreme Court's answers to the certified questions will be determinative of the issues in this appeal, and that court is in a much better position to interpret its own constitution.

The Ninth Circuit judges' certified questions are:

- Does Article III, section 22 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which states that "the Special Assistant may be removed only for cause," mean that the Special Assistant may never be removed from that position without cause—even beyond the term of the appointing governor—or does it mean that

the Special Assistant is protected against termination without cause only during the term of the appointing governor?

- If the answer to the above question is that Article III, section 22 of the CNMI Constitution means the Special Assistant may never be removed for cause even beyond the term of

the appointing governor, does Commonwealth law imply a private right of action for monetary damages against the Commonwealth or its officials for violation of that section?

The Ninth Circuit judges said if the CNMI Supreme Court declines certification, they will resolve the issues according to

their understanding of Commonwealth law.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI ordered the CNMI government in March 2010 to pay Peter-Palican \$216,049.88 in back wages. The court also ordered the government and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to reappoint her within 30 days to a

government position that has the same salary or greater than what she used to have.

The CNMI government and Fital appealed. They asked the Ninth Circuit to reverse federal court's four decisions in the lawsuit.

Among the issues they raised on appeal is whether the term of the special assistant for Women's Affairs ends with the administration that appointed her.

Navy to conduct training at FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- March 17 from 9am to 2pm
- March 19 and 20 from 7am to 10:45pm

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile

radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 65

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congo warlord convicted

Nobody ever made a viral video about Thomas Lubanga. Unlike Joseph Kony, a similarly despicable African warlord who also recruited child soldiers to carry out a campaign of rape, murder and mutilation and is now the subject of the fastest-spreading video in Internet history, Lubanga's dirty work went largely unnoticed in the West. Also unlike the still-at-large Kony, Lubanga is about to face justice for his crimes.

Lubanga, the head of a rebel militia that fought a devastating ethnic war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on Wednesday had the distinction of being the first person convicted by the International Criminal Court, a decade-old institution that has been in equal measures an inspiration and a disappointment for human rights advocates. The guilty verdict is a milestone for the court that also marks the first time an international trial has focused solely on the recruitment of underage soldiers, which is forbidden in global treaties but is usually lumped in with other war-crimes charges. The successful prosecution of Lubanga—for enlisting boys and girls under 15, drugging them, putting them to work killing his enemies and using them as sex slaves—will set a precedent useful in future trials (including a trial of Kony, if he is ever captured).

Child soldiers are more easily brainwashed than adults, and they display a remarkable capacity for brutality when abused. They are also often psychologically scarred for life by the horrors they're forced to witness and perform. It is the powerful revulsion for this practice that made "Kony 2012," which at last count had been viewed by more than 100 million people, such an astonishing catalyst for public activism. Critics have attacked Invisible Children, the advocacy group that made the Kony video, for spending most of its donor funds making movies rather than benefiting former child soldiers, but there's nothing wrong with raising awareness about global atrocities and the monsters who carry them out. We're less bothered by the spotlight shone on Kony than by the fact that Lubanga has for the most part been able to avoid it.

But he won't avoid the ICC; he now faces up to life in prison. That answers some of the court's critics, who have accused it of moving too slowly to accomplish anything. It remains true that the ICC would be more effective if it broadened its focus beyond Africa, but for that to happen, the great powers would have to stop protecting other global villains—such as Syrian President Bashar Assad, who might have been referred to the ICC by now if not for the diplomatic backing of Russia and China—from the long if slow-moving arm of international justice.

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How will it end in Afghanistan?

This has been one of the worst fortnights in the increasingly unhappy 10 1/2-year Afghan war for NATO and, above all, the United States and its ally, Britain.

First there was the burning of the Korans at Bagram air base, which unleashed a wave of religious fury and revenge killings of U.S. troops. Then came the deaths of six British soldiers, incinerated by a giant Taliban bomb last week, which pushed the British death toll in the war over the symbolic 400 mark. Support in Britain for an increasingly unpopular war further deteriorated. Now comes the shooting in Kandahar of 16 Afghan villagers—many of them women and children—allegedly by a rogue American soldier. All this can only have increased the determination of Prime Minister David Cameron and President Obama, his host for talks in Washington this week, to speed up their exit strategies.

But for the majority of Afghans, distressing as these events are, there are perhaps more pressing concerns. What will happen when the Americans and the rest of NATO pull out?

Afghans already feel that electoral considerations are more important to the West than the key question of whether the raw, new Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police will be up to the task of guaranteeing the country's security, especially if Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI, continues to back the Taliban.

Although the U.S.-led surge at the end of 2010 reversed the military balance in the Taliban-infested, drug-rich Kandahar and Helmand provinces, the Taliban has since retaliated by extending its grip in the previously secure north. Now, hardly a week goes by without some prominent government official, police or army chief being ambushed or blown up in Kunduz, Mazar-i-Sharif or even Kabul.

The hemorrhaging IED and suicide-bomb attacks—like the assassination in September of Karzai's top peace negotiator, former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, by a supposed peace envoy with a bomb hidden in his turban—has generated a climate of fear and pessimism.

The assassin is said to have been dispatched by the Taliban, who, with its backers, the ISI, are probably the only optimists in Afghanistan. The ISI sees its long-term strategy of manipulating the Taliban insurgency to install a pro-Pakistan government in Kabul as finally paying off.

For this observer, a foreign correspondent for Reuters and Independent Television News for nearly 40 years, the situation conjures up memories of the end of the Vietnam War. National security advisor (and later Secretary of State) Henry Kissinger had to negotiate with his North Vietnamese adversaries from a position of weakness that not even he could disguise. By then all American combat troops were long gone. I watched the North Vietnamese march into Saigon on April 30, 1975; they not only took over the old capital but the whole of the south as well.

Is that what will happen in Afghanistan? Will the Taliban move to

By SANDY GALL

Los Angeles Times

Sandy Gall is the author of "War Against the Taliban: Why It All Went Wrong in Afghanistan," which was published in Britain in January. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



fill a vacuum, with Pakistani and ISI backing? One hopes not, and of course it would not happen in one fell swoop as it did in South Vietnam. Many Afghans and non-Afghans fear a Taliban takeover could well lead to civil war. Whatever happens in the Pashtun south and its capital, Kandahar, the Tajik and Uzbek north will almost certainly fight rather than submit to another Taliban dictatorship. Memories of the massacres that accompanied Taliban rule from 1996 until 2001 are still too vivid for any northerner, and many southerners, to want to see the militants back in power.

Ahmed Shah Massoud, the Northern Alliance leader who was assassinated by al Qaida suicide bombers two days before 9/11, managed to defy the Taliban for five long years despite receiving precious little support from the United States. He left behind plenty of disciples, and many of his old mujahedin commanders are said to be stockpiling arms. One such commander, Masoud's successor, Marshal Mohammed Qassim Fahim, is Karzai's senior vice president. Whereas Fahim, reputedly a multimillionaire, could always take refuge abroad, many ordinary former mujahedin would see little option but to stay and fight, no doubt supported by Russia and Iran, which don't want to see another Taliban government in power in Kabul. Nor do the former Soviet republics to the north.

But short of civil war, is an extremist Islamic state, jeopardizing Western-inspired achievements in education and women's rights, inevitable? Gen. David Richards, chief of the British defense staff who commanded coalition troops in Afghanistan in 2006-07, does not think so. "I don't think we are losing, by the way," he told me. "We are just not succeeding in the time frame that suits and is acceptable to Afghanistan or Afghans and is acceptable to our population and our politicians. So what can we do? Well, since we have only now got the resources to do this correctly, I think we have got to give ourselves more time. People talk about a bit more strategic patience."

He added: "I believe where we have got the balance right, we are already turning the corner in practical terms.... Which is why, I think, give us a bit longer; 2015 is probably doable, for example. We have just started to get it right, and we might yet succeed."

But will the politicians give the generals that long? In the light of recent developments, it is doubtful.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios-ku: In Recognition of Local Leadership

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

First in a three-part series

Over four (4) years ago to the day following the pioneering and bold initiative by the Saipan Municipal Council to memorialize Saipan local leaders, the first Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios-ku is set for an historic opening this year. In the heart of Chalan Kanoa is the *Kios-ku* in Saipan's capital town, located directly across the United States Post Office and adjacent to Saipan's first seat of local government [<http://saipanmunicipalcouncil.blogspot.com>].

Once considered a robust, vibrant and thriving community, what little that remains of Saipan's capital town is a reputation for being Saipan's first and oldest village. Chalan Kanoa also hails as a place rich in heritage assets albeit most, if not all, in varying stages of dilapidation caused by man and nature. Today, what historic vestige remains standing is the mayor's machine shop, a place where the first Bank of America opened for business in the Marianas.

As well, the *kios-ku* is one of Saipan's historically significant asset. The *kios-ku* symbolizes the political transformative change, following World War II of what Saipan was then as an integral part of the Marianas District during the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) period under the control of the United Nations (UN) Trusteeship Council. As a trustee, the UN engaged the United States to administer the islands on its behalf. The UN obligated the United States Government, as an administering authority, to foster the political, social, education, and economic advancement of the islands that would eventually lead the islands to local self-government. The Covenant agreement is the living document worked out between the Northern Marianas

and the United States which established the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in political union with the United States. The Covenant allowed the CNMI to implement provisions of the Covenant in the CNMI Constitution, ultimately the essence of a self-governing CNMI.

Significantly, the *kios-ku* has become a symbolic springboard for American-style democracy in the Northern Marianas. It was at this plaza ground that built a political groundswell, heralding the formation of the two-party system in the Marianas. The *kios-ku* plaza also served as a birthplace of the local territorial and popular political parties on Saipan. Party leaders typically held assemblies and fellowships at the *kios-ku*, where they uttered their hopes and dreams during political campaign sessions. Indeed, the plaza was a convenient place for local political neophytes and seasoned leaders to display their political skills at winning the hearts and minds of the local electorates.

As the springboard for the *territorial party* and the *popular party* on Saipan, not only did the two-party system evolved and thrived for many years. But, over the succeeding years, party leaders in both political camps felt the need to change the local party labels, and adopted the labels of their U.S. counterparts in the Republican and Democratic parties. Arguably, the decision to align and conform to the two major national party labels in the United States has probably little (if any) to do with the liberal and conservative philosophies espoused by the two national political parties in the United States. The issues and positions taken by the local political parties seem to be all but different. Party labels, in other words, are generally used to identify membership, a useful technique, perhaps, in swaying voters to positions taken on issues by the local parties, or by individuals running for a particular public office.

While the local party labels and the seat of local government have evolved and changed over the years, what remains un-

changed was the political significance of the *kios-ku*. Until the commencement of the *kios-ku* project, the plaza has remained host to political functions, known for its role as a staging area for campaigns and motorcades every two-year (mid-term election) and four-year (gubernatorial election) campaign sessions and elections on Saipan.

For instance, a little over seven (7) years ago, the Covenant party had its roots spawned at the *kios-ku*. The little known budding party has eventually become rooted in the community and now a viable party by CNMI law, challenging the traditional two-party politics in the CNMI. The covenant party made political history on its own right seven (7) years ago, when the CNMI saw repeated triumph by the relative newcomer party in gubernatorial contest, the legislature, and local mayoral bets.

Unmistakably, the *kios-ku* heralds the instrumental role by local resident leaders in the political advancement and modernization of the Commonwealth. The *kios-ku* is a place where present and future generations of Saipan residents and visitors will visit and become familiar with the invaluable contributions of local leaders in the political and socio-economic evolution of the island. The *kios-ku* is where local residents and visitors will be able to identify, relate to and recognize local leadership. Indeed, the *kios-ku* is history itself, a place where history is captured as it unfolds, and a place where history will pass judgment upon local leaders.

It goes without saying that for many years since becoming a Commonwealth, local residents have been schooled of leaders and about leaders and heroes who are foreign conquerors, those who notably hailed from Spain, Germany, Japan and the U.S. naval administration, including representatives of the United Nations and the United States.

The *kios-ku* is a narrative, figuring the missing pages of history in our collective memory as islanders. The *kios-ku* symbolizes a transformative political change as the CNMI continually adjusts as a self-governing entity and recognizing her local leaders and leadership in public service.

Ramon Blas Camacho is chairman of 11th Saipan & N. Islands Municipal Council.

Why Egypt doesn't trust us

Now that seven American pro-democracy workers have been allowed to post bail and return to the United States, perhaps we can examine what the United States was up to in Egypt using reason instead of patriotic emotion. The Egyptian furor over such seemingly idealistic work may strike us as wild and idiotic, but in fact, the Egyptians have a right to be suspicious. America's attempt to promote democracy around the world through private organizations has unsavory beginnings and a sometimes troubling history.

The program stems from a discredited CIA operation. In the 1950s and '60s, during the Cold War, the CIA set up a group of phony foundations to funnel CIA money to private groups that were either anti-communist or, at least, non-communist. Among the recipients were the AFL-CIO, the National Student Association and the magazines *Encounter* in London and *Transition* in Africa. Some did not even realize they were operating with CIA subsidies. When the secret operation was exposed in *Ramparts* magazine and other U.S. publications, there was great embarrassment, and President Lyndon Johnson put a stop to such CIA funding.

But many in Congress felt that the program's problem lay only in its ties to the CIA. Cut those ties and make everything above-board, they argued, and the attempt to win hearts and minds to the American way would be useful and benign. In the 1980s, during the Reagan administration, Congress created the National Endowment for Democracy to take the place of the defunct CIA program.

Under the law, the endowment divided its money among four new institutes created to sponsor programs encouraging democracy throughout the world. The four institutes were run by the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, supposedly ensuring the participation of the major American ideologies and interests.

It was obvious that spreading democracy in foreign lands was a delicate matter that needed to be handled with great care and tact, but the endowment fumbled this right away. It allocated \$1.5 million to the AFL-CIO's institute for a program in France. Because France was both democratic and a U.S. ally, the endowment did not announce that the funds were going there.

The AFL-CIO official handling the grant in Paris was 74-year-old Irving Brown, credited with using CIA money after World War II to help prevent the communists from taking over the major French labor unions. Brown gave most of the endowment grant to Force Ouvrière, an anti-communist labor federation. He also gave \$575,000 to a right-wing student group that plastered Paris with posters attacking François Mitterrand, the Socialist president of France.

In Brown's mind, France was in danger because the Communist Party, which had a following of less than 10 percent of the electorate, supported Mitterrand.

"We're defending democracy in France," he told the Los Angeles Times. When a Paris newspaper exposed Brown's role in the campaign, an embarrassed U.S. Embassy denied it was a government program. But the funds, of course, did come from the U.S. government.

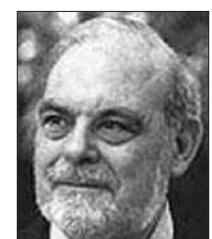
Since then, there have been accusations of interference in elections or plebiscites by the National Endowment for Democracy in Panama, Nicaragua, Chile, Costa Rica and Czechoslovakia. Despite this, the endowment has been able to withstand all embarrassments and accusations and still enjoy vast bipartisan support. Congress appropriated \$118 million for the endowment's 2012 budget.

In Egypt, the four U.S. organizations under attack for fomenting unrest with illegal foreign funding were all connected to the endowment. Two—the GOP's International Republican Institute and the Democratic Party's National Democratic Institute—are among the groups that make up the endowment's core constituents. The two other indicted groups, Freedom House and the International Center for Journalists, receive funds from the endowment.

The history of the National Endowment for Democracy would not be unknown to Fayza Aboul Naga, the minister of planning and international cooperation who has been leading the attack against the American organizations. Aboul Naga, a career diplomat, spent five years in New York in the 1990s as an adviser to a fellow Egyptian, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. It was not a good time and place for her to watch American democracy in action.

By STANLEY MEISLER
Los Angeles Times

Stanley Meisler, a former foreign and diplomatic correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, is the author most recently of *United Nations: A History*.



The Clinton administration, worried about public opinion, used Boutros-Ghali as a scapegoat whenever American policy went awry at the United Nations. When 18 U.S. troops were killed in Somalia in 1993, for example, the administration blamed the secretary-general even though the soldiers had been under American, not U.N., command. During the presidential election campaign of 1996, the Republican candidate, Bob Dole, even mocked the secretary-general's name and belittled the United Nations, regaling crowds by calling him, "Boooootros Boooootros-Ghali."

After Clinton's re-election, Madeleine Albright, then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and future secretary of state, vetoed Boutros-Ghali's bid for a second term; the rest of the Security Council voted for him. The National Democratic Institute probably gains no favor with Aboul Naga now by featuring Albright as board chairman.

We don't know exactly what American activities in Egypt upset Aboul Naga and other Egyptians. The charges have not been dropped. The groups say they were registered legally and were engaged in legitimate civil society work. But a thorough evaluation is needed.

More important, the motives underlying the U.S. funding should be evaluated as well. There is an American smugness that assumes everyone else must benefit from emulating our political system. In fact, advising our friends about their politics demands great sensitivity. Not everyone appreciates our interference. These private though U.S.-government-funded institutes should not be in a country where, as seems to be the case in Egypt, they are not wanted.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 84° ▾ 78°

▲ 85° ▾ 77°

▲ 86° ▾ 76°

▲ 86° ▾ 76°

▲ 86° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▾ 77
Palau Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▾ 78
Yap Showers	▲ 88 ▾ 77
Chuuk Showers	▲ 89 ▾ 79
Pohnpei Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 80
Kosrae Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 80
Majuro Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 65
Beijing	Ice	▲ 49 ▾ 27
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▾ 64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▾ 71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▾ 37
Los Angeles	Rain	▲ 57 ▾ 46
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 89 ▾ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▾ 53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▾ 68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▾ 45
Osaka	Showers	▲ 55 ▾ 44
Paris	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 39
Pusan	Showers	▲ 53 ▾ 40
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▾ 51
Salem	Showers	▲ 50 ▾ 33
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 45
Seoul	Showers	▲ 50 ▾ 30
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 55 ▾ 43
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78 ▾ 55

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:23 AM	6:27 PM	Today	2:12 AM	1:54 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM	Sunday	3:00 AM	2:48 PM
Monday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM	Monday	3:44 AM	3:41 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Tuesday	4:25 AM	4:32 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Wednesday	5:04 AM	5:21 PM

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ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVERLOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP

C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily

C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7

C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05079 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6

C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP

C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily

C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7

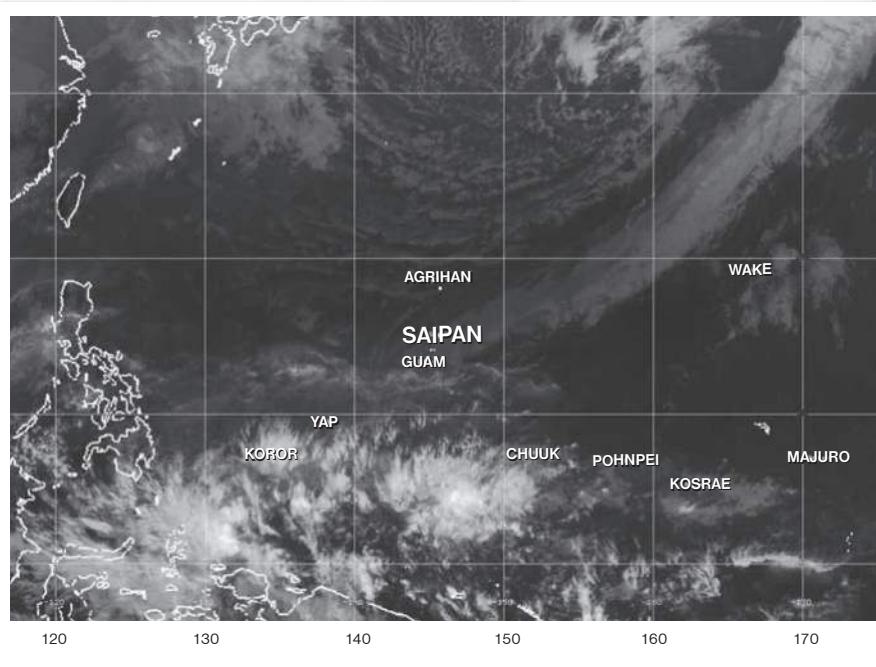
C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6

C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N157E to 17N154E then continues as a shear line to just south of Guam at 12N144E. Scattered showers are seen along and up to 250 miles northwest of the cold front and shear line. Converging surface winds west north and east of a surface trough running from EQ135E to 6N146E are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Koror between the equator and 4N from 130E to 135E and south of Yap around Koror and south of Chuuk between 3N and 8N from 135E to 152E.

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

C05067/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN

C05067/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

C05070/719 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM

DL287/713 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT

C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM

C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM

C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM

C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau

C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

C05074/603 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN</

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish

Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish

Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Monday-Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday-Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday-Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the

Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass

Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday-Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church

Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian

(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10-30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10-30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360

Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building). Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm

Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm

As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950

Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9:11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio

Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church

(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9:10-30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9:10-30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:

English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.

Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center

Sunday School: 9:9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)

Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm

San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church

Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ

Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church

(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville

Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services

Sunday morning 10:00am

Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan

Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times

Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship

Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am
Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church

(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 17, 2003

House lauds Kagman High School student

The House of Representatives bestowed honors on Kagman High School student Alvie Omega Sanchez for bringing global recognition to the CNMI, following her inclusion into the 2002-2003 National Honor Roll. The 15-year-old daughter of Fernando and Vivian Sanchez was among those featured in the 2002-2003 edition of the Pennsylvania-based National Honor Roll. In a resolution offered by Rep. Pedro P. Castro, the House noted that Sanchez' educational achievement pits her against other student achievers contending for the 25 scholarships awarded annually by the Educational Research Center of America.

Senate OKs Rota park marine as conservation area

The Senate passed a legislative amendment that seeks to include Rota's Coral Garden and Pinatang Park Marine, along with its surrounding waters, as a protected area under the Managaha Marine Conservation Act. The bill, offered by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, earned eight affirmative votes from Senate members during a session Wednesday. Senate Bill 13-25 seeks to declare the Coral Garden and Pinatang Park Marine as a conservation area in order to protect and preserve, by strict regulatory enforcement, the land and water resources for the enjoyment of future generations. The conservation measure is now before the House for action.

Mar. 17, 2004

CPA rate study bats for debt refinancing

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed yesterday that its rate study on CNMI airports recommends reducing operating expenses and the probable refinancing of its outstanding debts. Ricondo and Associates, which conducted the rate study for CPA, had advised the CPA Board of Directors to consider refinancing CPA's outstanding debts through the USDA Guaranteed Loan Program. The study also underscored the possibility of requesting a temporary relief from CPA's bondholders regarding its rate covenant. Also, Ricondo and Associates recommended the immediate

Maharlika

Consulate, POLO to offer 5 training courses

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office will be offering five free training courses for the second quarter of 2012.

Computer Building & Fixing, which is open only to graduates of Basic Computer Operations II, will be held for six Saturdays from April 14 to May 19, 5pm to 8:30pm, under instructor Mar Masilungan.

Baking class will be conducted by instructor Jojo Sotto for six Saturdays, from April 14 to May 19, 1pm to 7pm.

The Domestic Refrigeration & Air-condition Mechanic will be handled by instructor Rogelio Guinocor from 8:30am to 12:30pm, from April 14 to May 19.

Zaldy Quebral will be teaching the Basic Computer Operations I for six Sundays from April 15 to May 20, 1pm to 5pm.

Meanwhile, Basic Mandarin will be conducted by Rey Garcia, also on Sundays from April 15 to May 20, 1pm to 5pm.

Interested applicants should register at the POLO office at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza and bring their CW receipt or the receiving copy from USCIS, valid

passport, and one ID picture.

With the approaching last day of the Consulate, welfare officer Julie Fabian said yesterday that they released their second quarter schedule early to maximize the time they have left on island.

The Consulate has announced that its last day of services to the public is on Oct. 31, a Wednesday.

"We want to make up for the classes that we won't be able to offer on the last quarter of 2012 since we'll be shut-

ting down in a few months," Fabian told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fabian added that they are expecting more enrollees in this quarter's training courses, particularly in the Baking and Domestic Refrigeration classes.

"We encourage the community to take advantage of our free training courses to gain additional skills that are useful and practical," said Fabian.

For more information, visit POLO or call 235-3411.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

BON VOYAGE

Philippine Consulate General legal officer Dyan Kristine B. Miranda, standing left, is flanked by colleagues and friends at the Saipan International Airport before her flight back to the Philippines on March 9.

Planking is out, 'Noynoying' is in

By JAYMEE T. GAMIL, JULIE M. AURELIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Planking is so yesterday. The new "in" thing is to just laze around as if you have no worries, or "Noynoying," in youthspeak.

Street rallies against oil price hikes have adapted to threats against planking protesters as youth militants are now going for an easier way in making their sentiments known.

On the campus of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City, students lounging on the steps of a building looked utterly bored, some relaxed, but all very much idle.

This new look is "Noynoying," in apparent reference to President Benigno Aquino III's nickname.

Anakbayan national chairman Vener Crisostomo said the nearly effortless pose was a jab at the President, who he said had done nothing to cushion the impact of or prevent the spike in crude prices and tuition rates.

"He has not lifted a finger but he should be doing something. That is Noynoying, when you do nothing when in fact you have something to do," Crisostomo said Thursday.

On the UP campus Thursday afternoon, some youth protesters tried their best in outdoing each other's Noynoying look.

A female student in khaki shorts was on her back with shades on, as if without a care in the world, while another, in a dress, stared blankly out of a makeshift picture frame.

The frame had the words: "Noynoying, walang ginawa!" painted in bright red.

Mind you, the new buzzword is pronounced "Noynoy-ing" and not "Noy-noying," Crisostomo said when

asked for clarification.

The UP contingent, numbering around 50 or so, marched on Philcoa where they held a noise barrage in support of the transport caravan led by the transport group Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operatory Nationwide (Piston) to dramatize their opposition to unabated oil price hikes and Malacañang's perceived lack of action on the matter.

Einstein Recedes, the Kabataan party-list spokesperson, said the new gimmick was in response to warnings that protesters who would be seen planking on the streets would be arrested.

"Planking? That is so old already. Noynoying is the new in thing," he added.

One can go Noynoying practically anywhere, though the best place to do it, Crisostomo quipped, was in a public place.

He said Noynoying could be done in a variety of ways—be it on your feet, sitting comfortably or even lying on one's back.

"The important thing is that you're doing nothing!" he added.

Noynoying should be also done in a group, he added, so as to send a strong signal of how irritating idleness could be.

"We will not just go Noynoying. We will A-Noy them," the youth leader said, chuckling.

Crisostomo called on the country's youth to make the new fad go trending on the Internet by uploading their own Noynoying photos on their Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Students also did Noynoying in Sta. Mesa, Manila—sleeping, playing the handheld gaming-console PlayStation Portable or chatting on the phone.

"Basically, sitting around in Mala-

cañang, staring at the air, doing nothing," said the group of Femina Laya Canua, a freshman journalism student of Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP).

Around 50 youth and labor advocates walked out of their classes at PUP and held a rally on the traffic island on nearby Altura Street.

The activists, via megaphone and banners, assailed the Aquino administration for doing nothing about the oil price hikes. They called for the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law and the 12-percent expanded value-added tax on oil, among other things.

"[Aquino] could urge congressmen to scrap the Oil Deregulation Law, as fast as he urged them to have Chief Justice Renato Corona impeached. He just chooses to do nothing," said League of Filipino Students (LFS) spokesperson Gemma Cannalis, 23, a PUP math graduate.

The protesters, however, were not Noynoying around when Inquirer chanced upon them in Sta. Mesa in the afternoon. They were handing out leaflets to pedestrians and drivers of passing vehicles, and holding noise barrages.

In one of the nearby residential streets, Canua and her friends were collecting signatures from tricycle drivers.

They said they were able to collect around 500 signatures from tricycle drivers and operators in the Sta. Mesa district since Wednesday. They were attempting for a million signatures of drivers wishing to express their opposition to oil price hikes.

The rally in Sta. Mesa was also attended by members of Liga ng Kabitang Propagandists, Anakbayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakpawis party-list group and the PUP's school paper, The Catalyst.

Final mobile consular services on Rota and Tinian next month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General has announced that its last mobile consular services on Tinian and Rota before they close down will be next month.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig will lead the consular team that will conduct the mobile consular services on the two islands.

The team will conduct the services on Tinian at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel on April 21, Saturday, from 8am to 5pm, and at JC Café on April 22, Sunday, from 9am to 5pm.

On Rota, the consular services will be held on April 28 and 29, from 9am to 5pm, at the Northern Marianas College Rota Campus.

"As the Philippine Consulate General prepares to transfer consular jurisdiction of the Northern Marianas to the Philippine Consulate General

in Guam, the mobile consular services in April will be the last that will be offered by the Consulate on Saipan," said Macaraig.

During the mobile consular services, applications for ePassports, Overseas Employment Certificate or OEC, and membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration or OWWA will be processed. ePassport applicants are asked to check out the requirements at www.philippinesaipan.org.

Filipino citizens who want to vote for the May 2013 senatorial elections can also register at the mobile consular services. A valid passport, personal appearance, and an accomplished form which is available at the consular services will be required for registration.

For more information, call 234-1850, fax 234-1849 or email saipanpcg@pticom.com.

Free medical mission in Dandan on March 18

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch is hosting a free medical in Dandan on Sunday, March 18.

The event will be held at the Hi-Mart parking lot from 3pm to 6pm, according to Pastor Claire Javillonar.

Javillonar said yesterday that this is their second medical mission for 2012. The last one was held Feb. 19 at the Garapan Roundhouse.

"This will be our first time to visit Dandan for our medical mission and we encourage the residents, even those

that come from nearby villages, to avail of our free services from our church members and volunteers," Javillonar told *Saipan Tribune*.

Among the services that will be provided at the event are blood sugar and blood pressure screenings, eye check-up, facial and body massage, haircut, and spiritual counseling.

To invite the residents to come to the event, Javillonar said church members and volunteers will be conducting house visits in Dandan.

"We want to be able to reach out to more community members," she added.

Corona warns against one-man rule

By JEROME C. ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Saying he was fighting for judicial independence and the rule of law, Chief Justice Renato Corona on Thursday warned that under President Benigno Aquino III the country was heading toward "one-man rule."

Malacañang, however, dismissed as "ridiculous" Corona's warning in a speech in Manila before the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA). "Democracy in this country has never been as vibrant as in the last decade," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters.

"Recent events point out that the nation is now in great peril of teetering toward one-man rule, where executive action aims to shield, to shackle judicial independence undermining the rule

of all and erode the systems of governance, particularly the principle and the mechanism of checks and balances," Corona said in his speech.

Corona, who is on trial before the Senate impeachment tribunal for alleged culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust, said the foundations of modern Philippine democratic society were being undermined by "transient power-holders of government who are solely mandated and obliged to preserve and implement them."

"We are fighting for judicial independence to shield the judiciary from improper influence and pressure in our review of any grave abuse of discretion committed by any unit or agency of the Philippine government as well as in settling disputes between and among private and public groups and vested

groups," he said.

Popularity surveys

The Chief Justice said the judiciary should be isolated from "political pressures, popularity surveys, lobbyists, private partisan interests, undue influence and outright coercion from the executive and legislative departments or from major private stakeholders who are advancing their shared sociopolitical and economic interests."

"Even if the executive and legislative departments are constitutionally mandated within certain reasonable equalities and privileges guaranteeing their balance of powers with the judiciary, the Philippine Constitution did not leave to the whimsical discretion of the transitory political holders the implementation and preservation of judicial independence," he said.

entire 2012.

Last year, total remittances amounted to \$20.1 billion, up 7.2 percent year on year.

The growth in remittances in January came about as job orders for Filipino workers came in. Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the BSP said that from January to February, job orders for Filipino workers made by employers abroad reached 22,688.

The job orders were mostly for employers from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Taiwan and Kuwait.

The BSP said the ability of Filipino jobseekers to get work offshore was also aided by efforts of various foreign labor markets to enhance their recruitment systems. Many countries have improved their mode of hiring migrant workers in a bid to more quickly address labor needs of their enterprises, it added.

Taiwan, for instance, launched an electronic system of hiring migrant workers called the "International Direct e-Recruitment System" (IEeS). Korea also enhanced its system of issuing work permits for migrant workers through the "Korean Employment Permit System."

The BSP said efforts of Filipino banks and other financial

institutions to expand their presence abroad to serve the remittance-facilitation needs of Filipino workers aided in the increase in remittances. Improved accessibility of remittance centers has encouraged overseas-based Filipinos to send money to their families or other beneficiaries more frequently.

"Banks and other financial institutions have been aggressively expanding their global financial services through tie-ups with foreign financial institutions," the BSP said.

Remittances are a closely watched economic indicator as these help fuel household consumption, which is a key growth driver for the Philippine economy. The dependence of many Filipino families on remittances, however, is deemed an indication of a lack of income opportunities in the Philippines.

January remittances rise 5.4% to \$1.56B

By MICHELLE V. REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Remittances in January 2012 grew year on year by 5.4 percent to \$1.56 billion, according to documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Remittances grew in January from a year ago as the better global economic outlook for 2012 supported sustained demand for Filipino workers in various foreign labor markets.

Economic managers expected the growth in remittances in January to set a trend for the entire year, raising hopes that consumption of Filipino households would be boosted and, in the process, accelerate the growth of the overall economy.

"Sustained demand for professional and skilled Filipino workers underpinned the steady flow of remittances," the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said Thursday.

Documents from the BSP showed that money sent to the Philippines by Filipinos based offshore amounted to \$1.56 billion in January, rising 5.4 percent from \$1.48 billion in the same month last year.

The remittance growth in January was consistent with the BSP's forecast of a 5-percent increase to \$21.1 billion for the

Philippine soldier killed in clash with Abu Sayyaf

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military says one soldier was killed and three wounded following an army attack on a militant bomb-making camp in a southern island province.

Basilan province army commander Col. Ricardo Visaya says the elite Scout Rangers assaulted the camp of the al-Qaida linked Abu Sayyaf group Thursday but that two terrorist leaders were able to escape.

The wanted militants, Khair

Mundos and Purji Indama, were among about 40 rebels who trained in bomb-making.

The U.S. has offered a \$500,000 reward for Mundos, a suspected militant financier. Indama is accused of beheading hostages.

Visaya said Friday the rebels carried away four of their comrades who were killed or wounded.

He says troops recovered explosives but no complete bombs.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD EDI-SP funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2012-EDI-005

"Repair & Renovation of the Roofing System for the Jooten-Kiyu Public Library"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at the proposed project site located in Suspus, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P.O. Box 322-3547 no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 29, 2012.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Economic Development Initiative Special Projects Grant (EDI-SP).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2012-R-003

"ADA Compliance Retrofit of the Marianas Medical Referral Center (MMRC)"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at the proposed project site located in As Lite, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P.O. Box 322-3547, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, March 29, 2012.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2012-003

"Server Active Directory Design & Installation/Laserfiche Upgrade and Installation/Citrix Server Connection/Network Routing & Switching"

dissenter in rulings that affirmed the decrees and actions enforced by the martial law regime.

Corona paid tribute to "21st century Cecilia Muñoz-Palmas" in the PWJA "who have all raised their voices in expressing unequivocal support for the supremacy of the Constitution and the judicial independence of the Supreme Court."

Injustice

Present in the gathering were Supreme Court Justices Estela Perlas-Bernabe and Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, who is also the PWJA president; executive vice president and Court of Appeals Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando; retired Supreme Court Justices Ameurfina Melencio-Herrera, Carolina Grino-Aquino and Minita Chico-Nazario; and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Corona was applauded several times by about 300 female judges and justices who at-

tended the 25th anniversary of the association with the theme "Women Judges: 25 years of Upholding Judicial Independence, the Rule of Law and Women's Rights."

"An injustice to one of us is an injustice to everyone," De Castro said in her opening statement.

'Ridiculous,' Part 2

In a news conference, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. also branded as "ridiculous" Corona's warning.

He pointed out that Corona's impeachment trial was provided under the Constitution.

"Knowing how probably difficult it is, still that's provided in the Constitution. That's the right way, that's the only process and I think that we should say that's not one-man rule. That is adhering to what the Constitution says," Belmonte said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendano and Cynthia D. Balana*



OIL PRICE HIKE PROTEST

Protesters, mostly public transport drivers, temporarily halt the traffic as they stage a die-in protest at the office of Shell, one of the big three oil companies in the country, during a nationwide protest against the almost-weekly rising prices of oil and other oil products Thursday March 15, 2012 at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines.

AP

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2012-R-003

"CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER PATHWAY FOR SINAPLO CHILDREN'S PARK"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Sonsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kapat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers. (670) 234-8667/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, 2012, at the proposed project site located in Sinaplo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 10:30 a.m. local time, Friday, March 30, 2012.

The project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2012-003

"Server Active Directory Design & Installation/Laserfiche Upgrade and Installation/Citrix Server Connection/Network Routing & Switching"

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 9:00AM at NMHC conference office. Potential off-Island proposers may make arrangement to participate in meeting via phone, but are encouraged to attend in person if at all possible due to the anticipated detail and complexity involved in this RFP.

Question arising after this meeting must be addressed to Jocelyn S. Kapat, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email jskapate@nmhcgov.net no later than **Friday, March 30, 2012**.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 2011. This is a Federally Funded project, as such; Local Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of

Samu't Sari



SHARK DEFENDERS

Carlotta Leon Guerrero of Pew Environment Group and students from Simon Sanchez High School confer Shark Defender awards on President Christopher Loeak and Minister Tony DeBrum of the Marshall Islands at the 17th Micronesian Chief Executive Summit in Tamuning, Guam. The Marshall Islands created the world's largest shark sanctuary in October 2011.

ANGELO VILLAGOMEZ/ PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP



RENOVATED BUS STOP

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho is seen standing by the newly renovated bus stop in Koblerville on Wednesday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



NEW PAINT

Sgt. Anthony Macaranas and PO3 John Mendiola of the Department of Public Safety pose by the newly painted Koblerville bus stop on March 14.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



VISITING ROTARIAN

Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Igitol receives the Plano Rotary Club flag from visiting Rotarian Rick Horne, program manager for the ITSI Gilbane Company out of Texas, during a general membership meeting last Tuesday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to John Matthew Ellama who is celebrating his birthday tomorrow, March 18.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings going out to Mathew Jeb Corpuz (M.J.) who is celebrating his birthday today, March 17, 2012! May you have many more birthdays to come. Keep up the good work, son. We love you always, from Daddy, Mommy, Jace Grandpa, and Grandma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 8th Birthday Jason "Jay-boy" Reyes Lizama. It feels like you were a toddler just yesterday. You're growing up fast and we wish that your future is full of success and happiness. We pray and hope that no matter how old you get you will always be vibrant and outspoken. Keep up all the hard work in school and continue to excel in all the things that you do. Thinking of you always from the Ohio and Pinalek Family

Business

Heavy demand expected as iPad goes on sale Friday

NEW YORK (AP)—Let the wild rumpus start.

The customary storefront crowds are expected to gather as Apple's latest iPad goes on sale Friday. Long lines are likely even though customers could have ordered the new tablet computer ahead of time for first-day home delivery.

The third version of Apple's

iPad will be available in the U.S. and nine other countries beginning at 8 a.m. local time. The new model comes with a faster processor and a much sharper screen. It also boasts an improved camera, similar to that of the latest iPhone.

For many customers, visiting a store in person—instead of having one shipped—offers

consumers a chance to mingle with die-hard Apple fans.

Two years after the debut of the first iPad, the device's launch has become the second-biggest "gadget event" of the year, after the annual iPhone release. A year ago, thousands lined up outside the flagship Apple store on New York's Fifth Avenue. The device sold

out on launch day, even though it didn't go on sale until 5 p.m.

Apple does its part to encourage a party atmosphere. In past years, the company's retail employees have provided bottled water, coffee, bagels and even cupcakes to people in line. They've cheered and clapped as customers entered and left. Some customers bring lawn chairs and sleeping bags. Others dress as iPhones and iPads.

Although Apple's product releases have become a cultural phenomenon, the cult-like crowds that line up outside of its stores have made the company vulnerable to gentle ribbing from its competitors.

Television ads for Samsung's Galaxy line of phones routinely poke fun at people who are camped out in line for what appears to be an Apple product release.

The spots, in heavy rotation since December, portray Apple fans as clueless drones who think they're too cool to buy gadgets made by companies other than Apple. In one of the commercials, a bearded hipster says he could never buy a Samsung phone because he's "creative."

A bystander observes: "Dude, you're a barista."

For some customers, standing in line will offer the only chance to get a new iPad on Friday. Apple quickly ran out of supplies it set aside for advance orders. The company was telling customers Thursday to expect a two- to three-week wait for orders placed through its online stores.

The new iPad is called just that: "the new iPad." Apple declined to give it a name like "iPad 3" or "iPad HD." That is consistent with its naming prac-

tice for iPods, MacBooks and iMacs, but a break with the way iPhone models are named.

In the U.S., the new iPad starts at \$499, the same as the previous model, the iPad 2, when it debuted a year ago. The iPad 2 remains in stock, for \$100 less.

Despite competition from cheaper tablet computers such as Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire, the iPad remains the most popular tablet computer. Apple has sold more than 55 million iPads since its debut in 2010, including some 40 million last year. Researchers estimate that the iPad has more than 60 percent of the market for tablets.

The iPad's accomplishments have contributed to the company's success on Wall Street. Apple's stock touched \$600 briefly for the first time on Thursday. Apple is the world's most valuable company, with a market capitalization of nearly \$555 billion. It topped \$500 billion for the first time in late February, a market value peak where few companies have ventured.

Apple's retail stores are likely to draw the biggest crowds because they usually have the largest launch-day supplies, but the tablet will also be sold at Best Buy, Radio Shack, Sam's Club, Target and Walmart.

AT&T and Verizon Wireless will also sell iPads, but only models with built-in cellular broadband modems. Those models use the companies' latest high-speed wireless networks, based on so-called "4G LTE" technology. They'll be the first Apple devices with that capability built in.

Iran cut off from global financial system

BRUSSELS (AP)—Dozens of Iranian banks were blocked from doing business with much of the world as the West tightens the financial screws on a country it wants to prevent from developing nuclear weapons.

The Belgium-based company that facilitates most international bank transfers on Thursday took the unprecedented step of blocking 30 Iranian banks from using its service. The move is likely to hurt Iran's all-important oil industry and make it difficult for citizens to receive money from relatives living abroad.

The move by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, or SWIFT, is part of a broader effort by Western nations to isolate Iran financially and force it to demonstrate that it is not trying to develop nuclear weapons. Iran says that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, but officials in

many other countries believe otherwise.

SWIFT said it was forced by recent European Union sanctions to discontinue service to the Iranian banks beginning Saturday. SWIFT is a secure private network used by nearly every bank around the world to send payment messages that lead to the transfer of money across international borders.

The chief executive of SWIFT, Lazaro Campos, described the move as "extraordinary and unprecedented."

"It is a direct result of international and multilateral action to intensify financial sanctions against Iran," he said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Iranian government or the banks involved. Not all Iranian banks are subject to EU sanctions, and oil experts say there will be ways for Iran to sell oil without using SWIFT.

Still, blocking Iranian banks' access to SWIFT is "tighten-

ing the noose" on Iran, said Ali Ansari, an expert on the Middle East at the London-based Chatham House think tank.

Sanctions long in place have failed to convince Iran to return to nuclear talks; the EU, which imports about 14 percent of Iran's oil, plans to institute an embargo on Iranian oil in July.

The regime has been able to withstand these sanctions in part because high global oil prices have provided Iran, the world's third largest exporter, with record oil revenues. Iran exports 3.5 million barrels of oil per day, about 4 percent of the oil consumed in the world. Last year, Iran generated \$100 billion in revenue from oil, up from \$20 billion a decade ago, according to IHS CERA, a consulting firm.

Iran is expected to continue to sell to India, China and other major oil customers that are not participating in the EU embargo.

Goldman manifesto echoes past questions about bank

By DANIEL WAGNER and CHRIS TINA REXRODE
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

The young banker whose dramatic public resignation stung Goldman Sachs this week joins officials from every corner of the government in questioning whether the august investment house deals honestly with all its clients.

In separate cases, judges, lawmakers and regulators have suggested the bank ignores conflicts of interest and sells to its clients investments it knows are weak, all in the pursuit of profit.

The resignation Wednesday by Greg Smith, a 33-year-old banker for Goldman in London, was a shot from within Goldman's ranks. In an Op-Ed article for The New York Times, Smith said the bank sells financial products "that we are trying to get rid of."

"It makes me ill how callously people talk about ripping their clients off," Smith wrote.

The essay was widely circulated online, and Smith became a trending topic on Twitter. But his charges were only the latest embarrassment for Goldman, which has built a sterling reputation over 143 years on Wall Street.

The bank paid \$550 million in 2010 to settle civil charges that it misled investors while selling them investments in the U.S. housing market as the bubble burst—even as Goldman reaped hundreds of millions from its own bets against housing.

A congressional committee recommended that law enforcement authorities look into a series of deals that Goldman sold while executives derided them in emails as "junk," "crap" and another profane adjective.

And last month, a Delaware

court nearly blocked a merger between Kinder Morgan and El Paso, two energy companies, because Goldman had ties to both companies, raising questions about a conflict of interest.

"This is the latest entry into a long-running narrative that they don't put their clients first," said Michael Robinson, a former official with the Securities and Exchange Commission. "If your business is built on trust, that's not going to fly."

Robinson, who now works for Levick Strategic Communications, a public relations company, said regulators, Congress and prosecutors are almost certain to look into Smith's claim that Goldman sold investments to clients that it wanted to get rid of.

The SEC, the FBI and federal prosecutors in Manhattan declined comment. A spokesman for Goldman also declined comment.

Chinese state TV targets McDonald's, Carrefour

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state television has accused McDonald's and French retailer Carrefour of selling expired chicken products in separate incidents amid public anxiety in China over food safety.

McDonald's Corp. and Carrefour Inc. issued public apologies Friday and said they were investigating the report by China Central Television.

The report Thursday said a McDonald's restaurant in Beijing sold chicken wings 90 minutes after they were cooked while the company's rules set a 30-minute limit. It said employees at a Carrefour store in the central city of Zhengzhou changed expiration dates on

some chicken and sold regular chickens as more expensive free-range birds.

Food safety is a sensitive issue in China, which has been rocked by scandals ranging from deadly infant formula to chemical-laced pork and recycled restaurant oil.

"McDonald's China attaches great importance to this. We will immediately investigate this isolated incident, resolutely deal with it earnestly and take concrete actions to apologize to consumers," said a statement by the U.S.-based restaurant chain on its website.

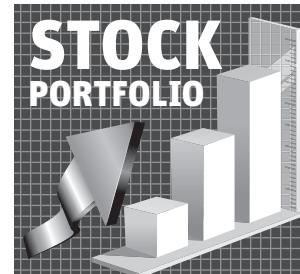
Employees who answered the phone at McDonald's China headquarters in Shanghai

said a spokeswoman was not available and declined to give any other details.

Carrefour, based in Paris, said it was setting up a team to investigate and would cooperate with Chinese authorities.

"We will further enhance the training and take measures to ensure to earnestly implement the relevant provisions to safeguard the interests of consumers," said a statement on the website of Carrefour's China unit.

Last year, U.S. retailer Walmart Stores Inc. was fined by authorities in the southwestern city and 13 stores were ordered to close for two weeks on charges of passing off regular pork as higher-priced organic meat.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

13,252.76
+58.66
+0.44%

S&P

1,402.599
+8.32
+0.60%

NASDAQ

3,056.37
+15.64
+0.51%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	0.9501	Hong Kong Dollar	7.762
British Pound	0.6366	Indian Rupee	50.3025
Canadian Dollar	0.9927	Indonesian Rupiah	9178.75
Chinese Yuan	6.3239	Japanese Yen	83.5295
Euro	0.7644	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0538
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2192
		Thailand Baht	30.7

Philippine Peso 42.91

Singapore Dollar 1.2614

South Korean Won 1124.9

Swiss Franc 0.923

Taiwan Dollar 29.5063

Thailand Baht 30.7

Nation

Lawyer: Afghan suspect's friend had leg blown off

SEATTLE (AP)—The U.S. soldier accused of slaughtering 16 Afghan villagers last weekend saw his friend's leg blown off the day before the rampage, his lawyer said Thursday night.

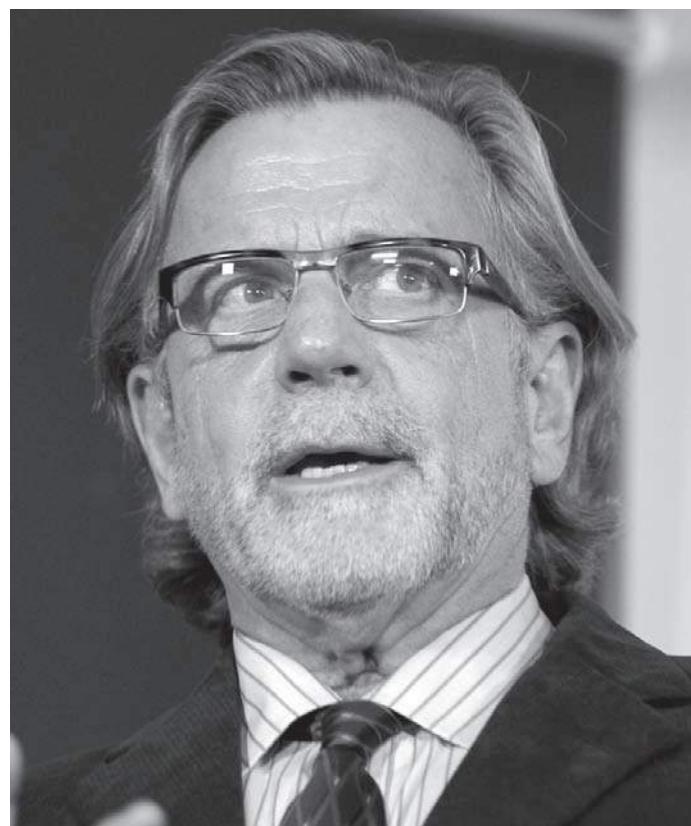
Seattle attorney John Henry Browne told The Associated Press that his client's family provided him with details of the injury to another U.S. soldier. The details have not been independently verified.

"His leg was blown off, and my client was standing next to him," he said.

Browne said the incident affected all of the soldiers at the base. It isn't clear whether the incident might have helped prompt the horrific middle-of-the-night attack on civilians in two villages last Sunday.

The suspect had been injured twice during his three previous deployments to Iraq, and he was loath to go to Afghanistan to begin with, Browne said.

Browne declined to release his client's name, citing concerns for the man's family, which is under protection on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, near Tacoma. But he said the soldier has two young children, ages 3 and 4.



AP
John Henry Browne, the attorney representing the U.S. soldier who is accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, talks to reporters, Thursday, Mar. 15, 2012, in Seattle.

The soldier, a 38-year-old father of two who is originally from the Midwest, deployed last December with the 3rd Stryker Brigade, and on Feb. 1

was attached to a "village stability operation." Browne described him as highly decorated and said he had once been nominated for a Bronze Star,

which he did not receive.

But he did say that the soldier and his family thought he was done fighting. During tours in Iraq, the soldier suffered a concussive head injury in a car accident caused by a roadside bomb, Browne said, and he suffered a battle-related injury that resulted in surgery to remove part of his foot.

He was screened by health officials after the head injury before he redeployed, Browne said. He did not know if his client had been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, but said it could be an issue at trial if experts believe it's relevant.

He and the rest of his brigade had initially been told they wouldn't have to go to Afghanistan, Browne said.

Browne and his co-counsel, Emma Scanlan, said they had met with the soldier's wife and other family members, and Browne said he spoke briefly by phone with the soldier, whom he described as stunned and distant.

His family was "totally shocked," he said. "He's never said anything antagonistic about Muslims. He's in general very mild-mannered."

U.S. military deployments

Many of the service members ever deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have made more than one tour.

• Total deployed 2.4 million*

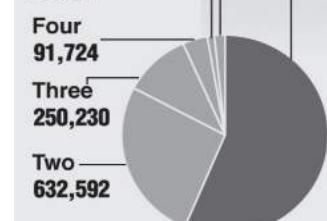
More than five 36,254 One deployment 1.35 million

Five 33,002

Four 91,724

Three 250,230

Two 632,592



Deployments, combat stress

Percent of troops screening positive for any mental health problems

First deployment 12%

Second deployment 18

Third deployment 27

*As of March 14, 2012

Source: U.S. Defense Department, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

© 2012 MCT

Browne said he knew little of the facts of the shooting, but disputed reports that a combination of alcohol, stress and domestic issues caused him to snap. He said the family said they were unaware of any drinking problem, and described the couple's marriage as "fabulous."

The soldier is accused of going on a shooting rampage in villages near his base in southern Afghanistan early Sunday, killing nine children and seven other civilians and then burning some of their bodies. The shooting, which followed a controversial Quran-burning incident involving U.S. soldiers, has outraged Afghan officials.

The suspect was flown out of Afghanistan on Wednesday evening to what officials describe as a pretrial confinement facility in Kuwait. Officials have anonymously described him as a father of two who has been in the military for 11 years. He has served three tours in Iraq and began his first deployment to Afghanistan in December.

The soldier asked to be represented by Browne, a well-known Seattle defense attorney, when he was taken into custody, the lawyer said.

Signs of financial strain showing up for Romney

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (AP)—The long and increasingly messy Republican presidential contest is starting to hit Mitt Romney where it hurts most: his wallet.

New signs of financial stress are emerging in Romney's campaign, which has built a wide lead in delegates thanks in part to the might of his bank account and multistate operation.

sAs rival Rick Santorum's surprising strength keeps extending the nomination battle, Romney has scaled back expenses, trimmed field staff in some cases and begun to count more on free media coverage to reach voters. And he's still relying on an allied super political action committee to supplement his spending on expensive TV ads.

This week, the former Massachusetts governor was forced to spend two days privately courting donors in the New York area,

even as his Republican rivals were wooing voters ahead of pivotal elections in places like Illinois, where he hasn't been in four months, and as President Barack Obama was stockpiling cash for the fall general election fight.

On Wednesday, Romney had five finance events in New York, all packed, raising about \$3 million, with more set for Thursday. So the news is hardly all bad. Wednesday "was the best day we've had so far," said New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, who accompanied Romney to multiple events, including a donor breakfast in New York City.

But it's less encouraging for the campaign that the money is badly needed to re-fill coffers that had sunk close to their lowest levels since Romney launched his presidential effort last year.

It's unclear if he will tap his own personal wealth.

The former financial executive, whose personal wealth is estimated between \$190 million and \$250 million, loaned his 2008 presidential campaign \$42 million. Top aide Eric Fehrnstrom says Romney has not loaned his campaign any new funds this cycle and has "no plans" to do so.

Raising money to get through a protracted primary fight is clearly not how Romney wanted to be spending his spring. He had hoped to have wrapped up the nomination by now, giving him the freedom to raise money for the general election against Obama. The incumbent Democrat doesn't have a primary challenge, and already is well into running for re-election.

He's spending 14 hours Friday raising money; the biggest event is to be with actor/director Tyler Perry and musician Cee Lo Green in Atlanta.

Green in Atlanta.

As Romney reloads for his GOP fight, his chief Republican rival, Santorum, is showcasing new fundraising success. The once-lopsided money race between the top two Republican candidates has never been closer. For the month of February, Romney boasted his second-best fundraising month ever, taking in \$11.5 million. Santorum, who has a vastly smaller organization to support, wasn't far off, with \$9 million.

For months, the former Pennsylvania senator's campaign was marked by disorganization and a shoestring operation that largely depended upon passionate but inexperienced volunteers. Santorum has finally opened a national headquarters to replace the post office box that previously served that role. And he's added several paid staff.

Boy who vanished in 2004 might soon rejoin family

HOUSTON (AP)—Long after tiny Miguel Morin disappeared in late 2004, the infant's family still paused to mark the milestones of his life, holding a celebration every year on his birthday and praying for his safe, swift return.

Now that wished-for reunion may be only days away after police arrested the boy's former baby sitter on charges she abducted him and began raising Miguel as her own.

"It's kind of hard to believe," the child's mother, Auboni Champion-Morin, said Thursday. "Some of these cases take years and years, and sometimes they don't come back. It was overwhelming."

Miguel, now 8 years old, is in foster care in the Houston area while investigators sort out his complicated story. At a court hearing Thursday, a child-welfare investigator testified that he was healthy physically and emotionally but had apparently not attended school.

Lisa Rose, an investigator for child-protective services, said the boy is a normal height and weight and that he's well-mannered but cannot read or name the school he attends. He believed he was 6 years old and identified a photo of the kidnapping suspect as his mother.

Miguel's parents agreed in court to provide DNA to con-

firm that the child is theirs. The whole family is eager to have him back, including the couple's five other kids ranging from 7 to 14, the mother said.

"They're anxious," Champion-Morin said. "They're ready to see him."

The former baby sitter, Krystle Rochelle Tanner, had been a friend of Champion-Morin's and she was Miguel's godmother. She lived in the same apartment complex.

Police identified her as a suspect shortly after the boy disappeared, but investigators soon lost track of her. Relatives said she had vanished too.

When the boy was reported missing, Houston police declined to issue any sort of alert that might have drawn tips from the public. Champion-Morin said officers told her she would have to pay \$500 for that step, and she didn't have enough money.

Instead, she put up fliers and constructed a website about her son's disappearance.

In San Augustine, a community about 140 miles northeast of Houston where Tanner was jailed, police said evidence against Tanner had been presented to Houston prosecutors in February 2005, but no charges were filed because authorities could not verify the exact date the boy was reported missing.

ACROSS THE NATION

Spring flooding? Not this year, US forecasters say

WASHINGTON (AP)—At least it's a dry heat. The federal government's spring weather forecast offers no respite from warmer weather, but the country should get a break from the spring flooding that's hit the last four years. The National Weather Service's outlook for spring, which arrived early with 577 warm temperature records broken Wednesday, predicts mostly warmer and drier-than-normal weather, except in the Northwest. The current summer-like weather—with some temperatures as much as 35 degrees above normal—is expected to stick around through next week. All or parts of 36 states are forecast to be warmer than normal April through June, with only Alaska, Hawaii, Washington and Oregon and the tip of Idaho forecast to be cooler than normal. Every state east of the Mississippi River, except Wisconsin, and most of the Southwest should be

Ariz. bill could require reason for birth control

PHOENIX (AP)—Women in Arizona trying to get reimbursed for birth control drugs through their employer-provided health plan could be required to prove that they are taking it for a medical reason such as acne, rather than to prevent pregnancy. A bill nearing passage in the Republican-led Legislature allows all employers, not just religious institutions, to opt out of providing contraceptive coverage when doing so would violate their religious or moral beliefs. When a female worker uses birth control pills, which can be used to treat a number of medical conditions, the bill would allow an employer who opted out to require her to reveal what she was taking it for in order to get reimbursed.

warmer than normal this spring, the weather service predicts.

Warmer than normal this spring, the weather service predicts.

Asia

North Korea says it will launch long-range rocket

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea announced plans Friday to launch a long-range rocket mounted with a satellite next month, a provocative move just weeks after it agreed to nuclear concessions including a moratorium on long-range missile tests.

North Korea argues that such launches are part of a peaceful space program that is exempt from any disarmament agreements, but the U.S., South Korea and other critics condemn them as disguised tests of the North's military missile technology in violation of a U.N. ban.

The launch is to take place exactly three years after similar launch in April 2009 drew widespread censure.

Liftoff will take place between April 12 and 16 from a launch pad in North Phyongan province, a spokesman for the Korean Committee for Space Technology said in a statement carried by state media. The North said the launch would be a test of satellite technology.

The plan comes as North Korea prepares to celebrate the April 15 centenary of the birth

of its founder, Kim Il Sung. Kim's grandson, Kim Jong Un, has led the nation of 24 million since his father, Kim Jong Il, died in December.

North Korea agreed last month to suspend uranium enrichment, place a moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests, and to allow back U.N. weapons inspectors in exchange for much-needed food aid. Uranium enrichment is one way to make atomic bombs. In the past North Korea has also weaponized plutonium for nuclear devices.

North Korea called the April 2009 launch a bid to send a communications satellite into space, but it was widely viewed in the West as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions prohibiting North Korea from engaging in nuclear and ballistic missile activity.

Shortly after the 2009 launch, Pyongyang declared that it would abandon six-nation negotiations on offering the North aid and concessions in exchange for nuclear disarmament. And weeks later, North Korea tested a nuclear device, the second in

three years—earning the regime tightened U.N. sanctions.

North Korea is proud of its nuclear and missile programs, which it claims are necessary to protect itself against the United States, which stations more than 28,000 troops in South Korea and has thousands more troops as well as nuclear-powered warships in Asia-Pacific region.

North Korea and the United States fought on opposite sides of the three-year Korean War, which ended in a truce in 1953. They have never signed a peace treaty.

North Korea is believed to have enough weaponized plutonium for four to eight "primitive" atomic bombs, according to scientist Siegfried Hecker of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University.

Pyongyang also announced in 2009 that it would begin enriching uranium, and revealed the facility to Hecker and North Korea expert Robert Carlin during a November 2010 visit to the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

The North Korean space committee spokesman said a

Kwangmyongsong-3 satellite designed to orbit the earth will be mounted on an Unha-3 rocket from the Sohae station in Cholsan County. He called it a "working" satellite that was an improvement over two previous "experimental" satellites.

The spokesman said North Korea would abide by international regulations governing the launch of satellites for "peaceful" scientific purposes and that an orbit was chosen to avoid

showering debris on neighboring nations.

North Korea provided similar notice in 2009, but launched the rocket despite warnings from world leaders that it would set the nation on a path of isolation.

In 2009, North Korea said an experimental communications satellite mounted on a three-stage Unha-2 rocket was sent into space playing "Song of Gen. Kim Il Sung" and "Song of Gen. Kim Jong Il."

The U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command and South Korea's Defense Ministry said no satellite made it into orbit.

In Seoul, the Unification Ministry said it had no comment Friday. South Korea is due to host the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in two weeks, and North Korea's nuclear program was expected to be discussed on the sidelines of the gathering of world leaders.



AP

In this April 5, 2009 image made from KRT video, a rocket is lifted off from its launch pad in Musudan-ri, North Korea.

Chronology of North Korea's missile program

Developments in North Korea's missile program:

- **Aug. 31, 1998:** North Korea fires suspected missile over Japan and into the Pacific Ocean, calling it a satellite.
- **Sept. 13, 1999:** North Korea pledges to freeze long-range missile tests.
- **March 10, 2003:** North Korea fires a land-to-ship missile off east coast into waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan.
- **October 2003:** North Korea fires two land-to-ship missiles.
- **May 2005:** North Korea fires a short-range missile into waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan.
- **March 8, 2006:** North Korea fires two short-range missiles.
- **July 5, 2006:** North Korea launches seven missiles into waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan, including a long-range Taepodong-2.
- **July 15, 2006:** U.N. Security Council adopts Resolution 1695 demanding North Korea halt missile program.
- **Oct. 9, 2006:** North Korea conducts underground nuclear test blast after citing "extreme threat of a nuclear war" from U.S.
- **Oct. 15, 2006:** U.N. Security Council adopts Resolution 1718 condemning test, imposing sanctions and banning North Korea from activities related to its nuclear weapons program, including "their means of delivery."
- **July 14, 2007:** North Korea shuts down its main Yongbyon reactor, later starts disabling it.
- **Sept. 19, 2008:** North Korea says it is restoring a key atomic reactor.
- **Oct. 11, 2008:** U.S. removes North Korea from a list of states that sponsor terrorism.
- **April 5, 2009:** North Korea launches a long-range rocket.
- **April 13, 2009:** U.N. Security Council adopts a presidential statement condemning North Korea's rocket launch.
- **April 14, 2009:** North Korea quits six-party nuclear talks and vows to restart its nuclear facilities in protest against the U.N. statement.
- **May 25, 2009:** North Korea conducts its second nuclear test.
- **June 12, 2009:** U.N. Security Council adopts Resolution 1874 sanctioning North Korea for its nuclear test.
- **Jan. 11, 2012:** North Korea test fires three short-range missiles.
- **Feb. 29, 2012:** North Korea announces a moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests in a food aid deal with U.S.
- **March 16, 2012:** North Korea says it will launch a long-range rocket in April to put a scientific satellite into orbit.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam accuses China of violating sovereignty

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has accused China of violating its sovereignty in the latest spat between the communist neighbors over disputed islands in the South China Sea. Vietnam's Foreign Ministry says in a statement Friday that a Chinese oil company has recently opened bidding for oil exploration near the Paracel islands, while earlier this month China conducted live firing exercises near the island

and planned to expand tourism there. China has occupied the Paracels since 1974, but Vietnam claims sovereignty.

Fishing boat sinks in New Zealand, 8 presumed dead

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A 7-year-old boy and a captain who was recently praised as a hero are among eight people believed dead after a fishing boat sank in rough weather off the coast of southern

New Zealand. The sole known survivor from Thursday's accident near Stewart Island was found clinging to a barrel in the ocean after enduring 18 hours in dark and cold conditions. He was taken to a local hospital suffering from severe hypothermia. Rescue crews have recovered three bodies and hold out little hope of finding more survivors from the vessel Easy Rider due to poor sea conditions and a long delay before authorities were alerted to the accident.

Although Karzai has previously said that he wanted international troops to transition out of rural areas, the apparent call for an immediate exit is new. Karzai also said he now wants Afghan forces to take the lead for countrywide security in 2013, in what appeared to be a move to push the U.S. toward an earlier drawdown.

A statement released by Karzai's office said that during

his meeting with visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, the president "requested that the international forces come out of Afghan villages and stay in their bases."

Karzai also said that the "Afghan security forces have the ability to provide security in the villages of our country," the statement said.

But a senior U.S. official said Karzai did not make any demands to have U.S. troops leave villages immediately. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose details of a private meeting, said it's unclear that the U.S. would be able to pull all of its troops out of the villages even by 2013. He noted that the U.S. plans to continue counterterrorism operations and advising the Afghan forces around the country.

A rapid pullout from rural areas would have a devastating effect on U.S. ability to challenge the Taliban on the battlefield.

Unlike the Iraq war, where most combat was in towns and cities, the Afghan conflict is a struggle to secure rural hamlets and remote mountain valleys used by the militants to move in and out of sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan.

It would essentially mean the end of the strategy of trying to win hearts and minds by working with and protecting the local populations.

Karzai is known for making dramatic demands and then backing off under U.S. pressure. The call for a pullback—even if aimed at his domestic audience—will likely become another issue of contention between the Afghans and their international allies at a time of growing war weariness in the United States and other countries of the international coalition.

Karzai spoke as Afghan lawmakers were expressing outrage that the U.S. flew the soldier suspected of gunning down 16 civilians early Sunday in two Afghan villages to Kuwait on Wednesday night. They were demanding that the suspect, a U.S. Army staff sergeant, be tried in the country.

A Seattle, Washington, lawyer said Thursday that he has been hired to represent the soldier, a 38-year-old father of two young children. The lawyer, John Henry Browne, said soldiers in the suspect's camp had been very upset that somebody in their unit had been "gravely injured" a day before the rampage.

World

Pro-regime rally marks anniversary of uprising

BEIRUT (AP)—Thousands of Syrians rallied Thursday in Damascus in a display of loyalty to President Bashar Assad, waving flags under a slate gray sky to protest the anniversary of a rebellion that the government says is driven by terrorists, gangsters and extremists.

Outside the Syrian capital, however, tanks and snipers besieged opposition areas, including the southern city of Daraa where the uprising began a year ago, touched off by the arrest of a group of youths who scrawled anti-regime graffiti on a wall.

One year into the Syrian revolt, the fight to oust Assad is cascading toward civil war with more than 8,000 killed and no end in sight to the bloodshed. Worst-case scenarios are playing out in a country where many remain shackled by corruption, a suffocating security apparatus and a family dictatorship that rules over 22 million people.

"We know that this is a criminal regime, but we didn't expect it to reach this amount of killing," Amer Mattar, a 26-year-old activist, told The Associated Press from Jordan, where he fled to safety after being arrested twice in Syria.

Despite widening international condemnation and biting

sanctions, Assad's regime has remained intact and intelligence analysts say the rebels have yet to pose a serious challenge to his powerful military.

Assad also has retained the support of many in Syria's business classes and minority communities, who worry they would lose protections under a new regime. Still others harbor an understandable fear of the unknown, given the rampant divisions within the opposition.

The threat of sectarianism is omnipresent. Assad has played

on fears of sectarian strife—which were so destructive in neighboring Iraq and Lebanon—to persuade the public that protests will bring nothing but chaos.

Syria's regional allegiances to Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah have raised fears of wider violence.

Western and Arab countries have struggled to stop the bloodshed by calling on Assad to step down and imposing sanctions. But Russia and China have protected Syria from censure

by the U.N. Security Council. Many in the opposition say only military aid can stop the killing and bring Assad down, but no countries are openly arming the opposition.

The most potent armed force opposing Assad is the rebel Free Syrian Army, made up largely of army defectors. But the force remains highly decentralized, with its leaders living in neighboring countries, and it cannot create a zone akin to the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi that was the center of the success-

ful uprising against Moammar Gadhafi last year.

In the past year, the Syrian rebels briefly seized small amounts of territory, most recently in the Baba Amr district of Homs and the city of Idlib in northern Syria. But both areas came under a ferocious siege by government troops and were retaken with heavy rebel and civilian losses.

Rebels held out for nearly four weeks of relentless shelling and sniper fire in Baba Amr, transforming the neighborhood into a symbol of the uprising. The humanitarian situation in the district, part of the third-largest city in Syria, remains catastrophic for civilians.

The Assad regime has blocked most foreign media from the country to report on the uprising, but some have sneaked in anyway—and several Western journalists have been killed in the fighting. Damascus allowed in a group of Arab League observers in December, but the mission was halted amid accelerating bloodshed.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon used Thursday's anniversary to report that well over 8,000 people have died in the past 12 months because of what his spokesman called the Syr-

ian government's decision "to choose violent repression over peaceful political dialogue."

U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said a Syrian government-led mission will visit Homs, Hama, Daraa and other cities at the center of the uprising this weekend, accompanied by U.N. and Organization of Islamic Cooperation staff who will assess humanitarian needs.

Thursday's pro-regime rallies were orchestrated by the government to overshadow opposition plans to mark the anniversary. Syria postponed the observance of Arab Teacher Day—a holiday—for one week, apparently to make it easier to bus in state employees and students to the rallies.

Still, the attendance was significant and a reminder that while the opposition movement has attracted an extraordinary backing, Assad still enjoys support.

As the wave of Arab Spring protests got under way in Tunisia and Egypt last year, Assad insisted that his country was different. In January 2011, he told the Wall Street Journal that the wave of uprisings—which had not yet reached Syria—signaled a "new era."



This image made from amateur video and released by Shaam News Network Thursday, March 15, 2012 purports to show an attack on a castle in Hama, Syria.

March 15, 2011 - Activists call for a "Day of Rage" across Syria, inspired by other popular uprisings across the Arab world. In February, several youths were arrested in the southern town of Daraa for writing graffiti calling for the downfall of the regime of President Bashar Assad.

March 18, 2011 - Activists say five people were killed as security forces dispersed crowds in the southern town of Daraa—one of several demonstrations across the country—in the first deadly violence reported in the uprising. Over the next days, Daraa was reported sealed off, with no one allowed to enter.

March 23, 2011 - Protests continue in Daraa, and Syrian state media release images of guns, hand grenades, bullets and stacks of Syrian currency said to be seized from a mosque in the town.

March 25, 2011 - Troops open fire on protesters in several cities and crowds clash on the streets of the capital of Damascus.

April 26, 2011 - Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks and snipers open fire on civilians in Daraa and two other locations, according to witnesses. Armed security agents conduct house-to-house sweeps. Neighborhoods are sectioned off and checkpoints are erected. Electricity, water and cellphone services are cut. At least 11 people are killed and 14 others lay in the streets, either dead or gravely wounded.

May 18, 2011 - The U.S. imposes sanctions on Assad and six senior Syrian officials for human rights abuses, freezing any assets they have

A timeline of some key events in Syrian uprising

in U.S. jurisdiction. The Swiss government passes a measure restricting arms sales to Syria and freezing the assets and banning the travel to Switzerland of 13 senior Syrian officials.

June 7, 2011 - Details emerge of a mutiny by Syrian soldiers in the northern town of Jisr al-Shughour, where 120 troops were killed, according to the government. The loss of control appears to expose cracks in the autocratic regime and its ability to squelch ongoing protests.

Aug. 5, 2011 - After several days of a ferocious assault on the city of Hama, the epicenter of anti-regime protests, hundreds are left dead by Syrian security forces backed by tanks and snipers. Corpses are scattered in the streets and Hama hospitals are overwhelmed with casualties. President Barack Obama calls the reports "horrifying."

Aug. 18, 2011 - The United States, Britain, France and Germany and the European Union demand that Assad resign, saying he is unfit to lead.

Oct. 4, 2011 - Russia and China veto a European-backed U.N. Security Council resolution that threatened sanctions against Syria if it didn't immediately halt its military crackdown against civilians.

Oct. 6, 2011 - As Assad attends a ceremony to mark the 38th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Syrian troops storm villages close to the border with Turkey, hunting armed military defectors, according to activists.

Oct. 24, 2011 - The U.S. pulls its ambassador out of Syria over security concerns.

Nov. 8, 2011 - The U.N. human rights office says the death toll for the uprising is 3,500.

Nov. 12, 2011 - The Arab League votes to suspend Syria's membership, a stinging rebuke to a regime that prides itself as a bastion of Arab nationalism.

Nov. 27, 2011 - The Arab League overwhelmingly approves sanctions against Syria to pressure Damascus to end its crackdown, an unprecedented move by the League against an Arab state.

Dec. 12, 2011 - U.N. rights chief Navi Pillay says more than 5,000 have died in the Syrian conflict.

Dec. 23, 2011 - Two car bombs explode near intelligence agency compounds in Damascus, killing 44 people in the first suicide attacks since the uprising began.

Dec. 28, 2011 - Syrian security forces open fire on thousands of anti-government protesters in the central city of Hama, killing at least six people—one day ahead of a visit by Arab League observers on a mission to end the crackdown. The government also releases 755 prisoners following a report by Human Rights Watch accusing authorities of hiding hundreds of detainees from the observers.

Jan. 2, 2012 - An explosion hits a gas pipeline in central Syria and the government blames "terrorists." The opposition accuses the government of playing on fears of religious extremism and terrorism to rally support behind Assad.

Jan. 6, 2012 - Exactly two weeks after twin bombings in Damascus, an-

other explosion rips through a busy intersection and police bus in the capital, killing at least 25 people.

Jan. 11, 2012 - Gilles Jacquier, a French cameraman, is killed in Homs—the first Western journalist to die in Syria's uprising.

Jan. 28, 2012 - The Arab League halts its observer mission in Syria because of escalating violence that killed nearly 100 people the past three days, as pro-Assad forces battled dissident soldiers in a belt of suburbs on the eastern edge of Damascus in the most intense fighting yet so close to the capital.

Jan. 30, 2012 - A gas pipeline near the Lebanese border is blown up, according to state-run media. Activists report gunfire and explosions in the Damascus suburbs. A day later, troops crush pockets of resistance in the suburbs, with the death toll at about 100.

Feb. 3, 2012 - Activists say an assault by government forces in Homs kills more than 200 people and wounds hundreds.

Feb. 4, 2012 - Russia and China veto a resolution in the U.N. Security Council that backed an Arab League plan that calls for Assad to step down. The double-veto outrages the U.S. and European council members who feared it would embolden the Assad regime.

Feb. 6, 2012 - The Obama administration closes the U.S. Embassy in Damascus and pulls all American diplomats out of Syria.

Feb. 22, 2012 - French photojournalist Remi Ochlik and American-born journalist Marie Colvin of Britain's

Sunday Times are killed by government shelling of Baba Amr, a key rebel-held neighborhood in Homs. Two other journalists are wounded.

Feb. 26, 2012 - Syria holds a referendum on a new constitution, a gesture by Assad to placate the opposition. The West dismisses the vote as a "sham." The next day, activists say the death toll from nearly a year of unrest has surpassed 8,000, with most of the victims civilians.

March 1, 2012 - Syrian troops take control of Baba Amr after a government assault that raged for weeks. The rebels retreat, having run low on weapons under unbearable humanitarian conditions. Syria's main opposition group, the Syrian National Council, forms a military council to organize and unify all armed resistance.

March 8, 2012 - Syria's deputy oil minister announces his defection in an online video, making him the highest ranking official to abandon Assad's regime since the uprising began.

March 13, 2012 - Syrian military forces reportedly take control of the northern rebel stronghold of Idlib along the border with Turkey, a major base that army defectors had held for months. An international rights group said the army is mining the border with Turkey.

March 15, 2012 - On the first anniversary of the start of the uprising, thousands march in a pro-Assad rally in Damascus. Tanks and snipers continue to besiege Daraa. The U.N. secretary-general says more than 8,000 have been killed in the crackdown.

Young Style

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—The Miss Alaska pageant requires contestants to perform a public service project. Under Debbe Ebben's silver tiara is evidence of hers.

The reigning Miss Chugiak-Eagle River has raised more than \$4,000 for children's cancer research for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, and last weekend, delivered on a promise to people who pledged by allowing her brown tresses to be buzzed off.

She's proud of raising money, but the underlying message is for children who lose their hair because of cancer treatments.

"You're proving it's OK to be bald regardless of whether you chose to be or not," Ebben said.

Ebben, 23, stands 5-feet-4 inches tall, and her official talent is playing the piano. She has been entering pageants affiliated with Miss Alaska since 2007. She used scholarship money to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks for four years. She was motivated to get involved with St. Baldrick's by another beauty queen, Miss Virginia 2008 Tara Wheeler. Near the end of her reign, Wheeler decided to raise \$50,000 for St. Baldrick's and pledged to become a "shavee" if she reached her goal.

"She inspired me to get involved with them," Ebben said. "She did it kind of on the side after her reign. I decided to make it my entire personal platform."

Ebben was looking for a different kind of community project.

"It's my job as a title holder to make a really bold statement, and to be someone that people can look up to, and make an impact on the community. And that was really why I fell in love with it. It was something that was different. It was something that was unique. It was something that I could do and accomplish in a community and was something that everyone could get involved with."

Everyone included her mother Julie, who also pledged to shave her head. Debbe Ebben's turn began with auctioning off ponytails of her hair. KTUU-TV in Anchorage reported the shearing.

"It looks like I'm the Who from Whoville," Ebben said. A barber finished the job.

Ebben has not decided whether to grow her hair out as the Miss Alaska Pageant approaches in June, with the chance to compete in the Miss America Pageant. She may, she said, rock the current hairdo. She doesn't think stubble will hurt her chances.

"I don't see it as anything negative. Girls wear extensions. Girls wear

Beauty queen shaves head for cancer research money

By DAN JOLING

Associated Press



weaves. Girls wear wigs. There's no difference. The true beauty is what you emanate yourself. That's really what the Miss America organization is about. It's not what you look like, it's how you represent and carry yourself."

Alisa Parrent, director of the Miss Chugiak-Eagle River program, calls Ebben courageous and said the sacrifice of her hair for a cause demonstrates how pageants are more than swimsuit competitions. Parrent also sees how it could affect a child.

"There's a lot of young girls who are just recently being diagnosed with cancer, that are going to be faced with losing their hair, and maybe they've always dreamed of being Miss America, and the idea of losing their hair is just devastating to them," Parrent said. "So to see Debbe, who is a beauty queen, and who says it's OK to be beautiful and to be bald, that's just really touching."

St. Baldrick is not a real saint. The name morphs "bald" with "St. Patrick," said spokeswoman Traci Shirk by phone from Monrovia, Calif. The organization began on March 17,

2000, when three insurance executives turned a St. Patrick's Day party into a head-shaving event to help children with cancer. The organization now raises money for childhood cancer research grants and has pulled in nearly \$16 million this year. Events are held year-round, but nearly 800 are scheduled for March, Shirk said.

"It's pretty extraordinary when any female does it," she said of head shaving. "It's always a bigger stand, just because you know, hair and women. But definitely a beauty queen - someone who's in the spotlight ... we're really honored to have their support."

Ebben's experience, along with her work with Children's Miracle Network, a Miss America cause, has shaped more than her hair. Instead of engineering, she's now studying to be a "child life specialist" working with children in hospitals.

"They're kind of the in-between, go-to person to put the kid at ease, describe things to families, and interact with them at the hospital and really be a positive role model for them," she said. "You could say that pageants really led me to that career."

Science Matters

Shoot once, focus later

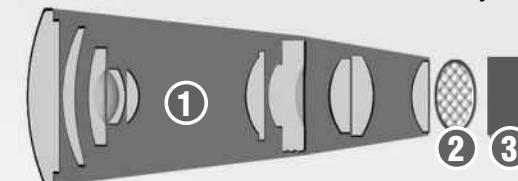
A novel kind of camera that can generate a variety of images from a single shot is now reaching consumers.

How a light field camera works

1 Lenses focus light rays

2 Light passes through grid of tiny lenses like those in an insect eye

3 Light-sensing chip captures data about light ray's color, brightness and distance it traveled to camera

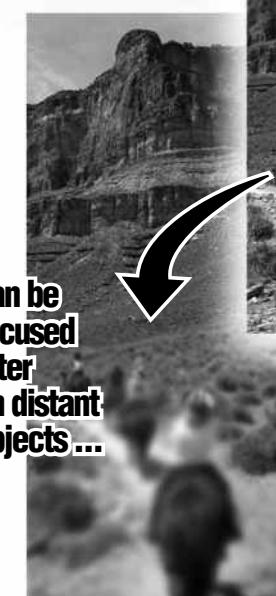


Lytro Camera

- 11 million pixels
- 8X optical zoom
- f/2 aperture lens



A single exposure ...



on objects close to camera

Source: Lytro Inc. Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

© 2012 MCT

Awards honor youth pursuing science careers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nithin Tumma, a 17-year-old from Fort Gratiot, Mich., has won this year's Intel Science Talent Search for his research on breast cancer treatments that are more effective and less toxic.

High school seniors, competing for \$630,000 in prize money, were judged on their scientific research as well as achievement and leadership, both inside and outside the classroom.

President Barack Obama met with the finalists at the White House on Tuesday.

Tumma, who beat out 1,800 applicants in the talent search, won the top \$100,000 prize.

Dr. Andy Yeager, the head judge and director of the blood and marrow transplant program at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, said that

Tumma's project has "tremendous implications for the understanding of interactions among molecular pathways in cancer development and for the development of targeted potentially less toxic cancer treatments."

The second place prize of \$75,000

went to Andrey Sushko, 17, of Richland, Wash., for his development of a miniature motor, which uses the surface tension of water to turn its shaft.

Mimi Yen, 17, of Brooklyn, N.Y., won third place and \$50,000 for her study of evolution and genetics.

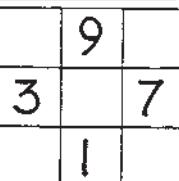
Alumni from the science talent search have gone on to win Nobel Prizes, Fields Medals, National Medals of Science, MacArthur Foundation Fellowships and an Academy Award for best actress. The science talent search is a program of the Society for Science & the Public.

Junior Whirls

by Hal Kaufman

SUM LUCK! Alas, the simple magic number square shown at right is missing five of its numbers. These missing numbers—2, 4, 5, 6 and 8—are required to produce a total of 15 in all directions—across, down and diagonally. How quickly can you put them in place?

P.S.: In ancient times, we are told, this simple magic number square was deemed to have mystical powers, and was engraved on lucky charms.



STEP BY STEP DEN WORDS

How quickly can you fill blanks above with appropriate DEN words?

Let's see.

Definitions of six words with letters DEN in stepped-off progression are as follows:

1. Bear's dige (DEN, in Place).

2. Adam and Eve's garden spot.

3. Add another lane to a highway, for instance.

4. Summerall's TV broadcast sidekick.

5. Add to the general joy of things.

6. Free oneself from a heavy care.

Try to adhere to a two-minute time limit.

1. Den 2. Eden 3. Garden 4.

5. Highway 6. Sidekick.

7. Lane

8. Summerall

9. Television

10. Sidekick

11. Lane

12. Garden

13. Eden

14. Highway

15. Sidekick

16. Lane

17. Garden

18. Eden

19. Highway

20. Sidekick

21. Lane

22. Garden

23. Eden

24. Highway

25. Sidekick

26. Lane

27. Garden

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178. Eden

179. Highway

180. Sidekick

181. Lane

182. Garden

<p

Good Housekeeping

Plaster ceilings peeling after half a century

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Q: My parents have lived in their house for 48 years. The house is about 54 years old. They have always used good-quality paint.

About three years ago the ceiling began to peel. When a representative from the paint company came to inspect the situation he said it was the plaster on the ceiling and not the paint.

They have delayed painting because the ceilings continue to peel. What might be the cause and what do you suggest they do? Seems like too long a time for this to happen.

A: Moisture is a likely cause, high humidity in the house, inadequate ventilation after insulating, a leaky pipe in the shower, clogged dryer vent—just about anything—might cause the plaster to be damp and make it difficult for the paint to adhere to the surface.

Much of what I see on the Internet about peeling paint on plaster ceilings has to do with much older houses that have several coats of paint including the be-very-careful-with lead-based stuff.

I'm almost sure it is a moisture issue, because that's what I have found over the years with my own older houses, much older than your parents' place. Until you solve it, you won't be able to repaint successfully, and then you'll need to prep very carefully and thoroughly before you do.

I asked Deborah Zimmer and the Paint Quality Institute about what makes paint fail. The



Just about anything might cause the plaster to be damp and make it difficult for the paint to adhere to the surface.

clues, she said, can be found in the way your paint is failing.

"The evidence is right there, you just need to know how to interpret it," she said.

If your exterior paint is peeling, the culprit is probably moisture. Peeling occurs when wet wood swells underneath the paint, causing the paint film to loosen, crack, and ultimately peel.

Water can reach the wood through un-caulked joints or a

leaky roof. Another possibility: water being forced underneath the roofing shingles because of clogged rain gutters.

Bubbles or blisters in your paint can eventually lead to peeling, so they can't be ignored. This problem can usually be traced to either heat or moisture.

If your house was originally painted on a very hot day in direct sunshine, for example, blistering can result, especially if a

dark-color paint was applied.

Sometimes, moisture is to blame. Excess moisture from within the home can build up behind the paint and cause blisters (this is less likely with latex paint, which is vapor permeable); rain or heavy dew can also produce blisters if the sur-

face preparation wasn't done properly or if low-quality latex paint was used.

Checking is when horizontal and vertical cracks create a checkerboard pattern in your paint. It is evidence that the paint has lost its elasticity.

Checking typically occurs on

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Double Cornbread

Frozen corn enhances the texture and flavor of hearty cornbread without a lot of extra expense. Bake and freeze the cornbread, tightly wrapped, up to one month ahead. Thaw; then, when ready to serve, reheat, covered, at 450 F for 15 minutes. Cut into serving pieces.

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups yellow cornmeal
1/4 cup sugar
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 1/2 cups buttermilk
3 large eggs
1 package (10 ounces) frozen corn, thawed
6 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

2 jalapeno chiles, seeds and membranes discarded, finely chopped
1. Preheat oven to 450 F. Grease 13- by 9-inch metal

baking pan.
2. In large bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In medium bowl, with wire whisk or fork, beat buttermilk and eggs until blended.

3. Add corn, melted butter and jalapenos to buttermilk mixture; then add to flour mixture. Stir until ingredients are just mixed.

4. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 22 to 25 minutes or until golden at edges and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cut lengthwise into 4 strips, then cut each strip crosswise into 6 pieces. Serve warm. Makes 24 pieces.

Pork BBQ
We used ready-made shredded barbecued pork, sold in tubs in the meat department, for the base and added beans and fresh tomatoes for extra flavor and

fiber. Serve with store-bought corn bread.

16 ounces (half of 32-ounce container) fully cooked shredded pork with barbecue sauce

1 can (15 to 19 ounces) red kidney beans, rinsed and drained

1 can (15 to 19 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained

2 large plum tomatoes, cut into 1/4-inch dice

In 3-quart saucepan, heat pork mixture with beans, tomatoes and 1 cup water to boiling over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes to blend flavors, stirring occasionally. Serves 4.

Each serving: About 380 calories, 6g total fat (2g saturated), 30mg cholesterol, 1,245mg sodium, 60g carbohydrate, 18g protein, 29g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Don't get suckered by job-hunt scams

By DAVID UFFINGTON

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Hunting for a job shouldn't have to include protecting yourself from possible scams, but the reality is that you must if you're doing your job search online.

Fake job listings are everywhere: online job boards, email and phony company websites. Some are very creative and look authentic.

Here are some keywords that are indicative of likely scams: Internet business development or coaching, business opportunity, work at home, refundable fee, guaranteed income, undisclosed federal jobs, guaranteed job, consultant and easy work.

In spite of the ease of communicating via the Internet, if you've received an email offer or see an online posting and don't know if it's genuine, ask for a phone number to call and speak to a human. Check out the phone number before you call. Try www.anywho.com and click on Reverse Lookup,

which also will give you the address. Do a Google search for the address, too.

Learn how to tell the true address of an online link by putting your cursor over it and seeing if it matches the words before you click. Beware especially of any Internet address that consists mostly of numbers with a pattern like this: xxx.xxxxx. That's an indication of a new Internet address.

If you get anonymous email and someone claims to want to hire you for a job you don't even remember applying for (quite possible if you're sending out lots of resumes), scammers likely will ask for information such as your Social Security number, date of birth, home address and even your credit-card availability and card number.

Verify, verify, verify before you give out personal information, including your Social Security number. If the job is a scam and you provide that number, as well as your name

surfaces with several layers of oil-based paint. With age, oil-based paint gets brittle. When temperatures rise or fall dramatically, siding can expand or contract, but the inflexible paint simply cracks and checks.

Chalking occurs when a fine powder forms on the painted surface. Although light chalking is a desirable way for paint to wear over time, excessive chalking can cause the color of the paint to fade very quickly—evidence that the protective paint film is rapidly eroding.

Cases of extreme chalking can usually be traced to the use of a lower-quality, highly pigmented paint, or use of an interior paint on an outdoor surface.

Often, discoloration is due to mildew, a fungus resembling dirt that thrives in warm, moist conditions. Thick shrubbery near the home can make the problem worse by shading the siding and restricting the flow of air.

A second type of discoloration is "bleed-through," which can occur with staining woods like cedar and redwood. Failure to apply a primer before painting can allow tannins within the wood to seep through the paint and mar its appearance.

What to do if your home experiences one of these problems? If you can determine the cause, Zimmer advises you correct any condition that may have led to the paint failure. Then, when you repaint, do proper surface preparation, and use only top-quality coatings.

and address, you've just gift wrapped the means for identity theft.

With email, a genuine address should include the company's name, not so-and-so at Gmail or Yahoo.com. You, on the other hand, can make use of one of those temporary email accounts because in time it's sure to fill with spam.

If you sign up with a big online job list such as Monster.com, use a P.O. box for your home address. Use an initial for your first name.

Best bet: Hook up with multiple in-person personnel agencies or recruiters. They'll have access to the real jobs.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columncolumnrep@gmail.com.

Life & Style

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band closed out a powerful run at South By Southwest with a concert that was part political protest, part moving memorial and all rock ‘n’ roll.

Springsteen played a guest-packed socially conscious set, beginning and ending with tributes to Woody Guthrie, and heavy with songs from his new album, “Wrecking Ball,” a scathing look at America in the 21st century.

He noted how the economic crisis has “put people out of their homes, taken away their retirement and split this country down the middle,” before launching into the powerful new song “Jack of All Trades.”

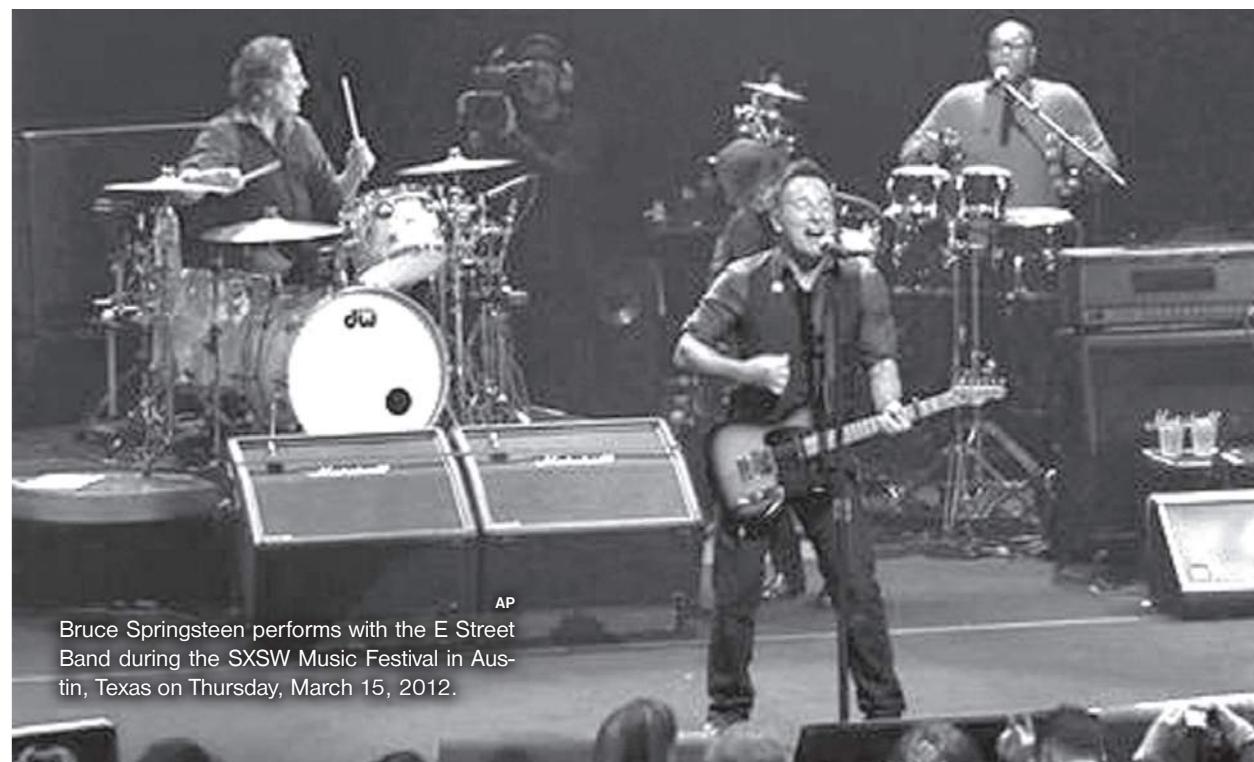
He mostly let the music do the talking, however, bringing up reggae legend Jimmy Cliff to sing “The Harder They Come,” “Time Will Tell” and “Many Rivers to Cross” and Eric Burdon of The Animals to sing “We Gotta Get Out of This Place.”

The Boss took over Austin for 24 hours, making a surprise appearance at the Austin Music Awards to jam with Alejandro Escovedo and Joe Ely on Wednesday night, then delivering an often hilarious tour-de-force keynote speech Thursday afternoon that was one of the most anticipated events at the South By Southwest Music Conference and Festival this year.

He capped the evening with a special show that went nearly three hours at the Austin City Limits Live venue and served as a preview of his upcoming tour, which starts Sunday in Atlanta. He paid tribute to “old friends,” making an allusion to late saxophonist Clarence Clemons, who died last year. And he pulled Clemons’ nephew and new E Street horn section member Jake Clemons down to the front of the stage to play solos several times. He even crowd surfed briefly.

“I can’t believe you’re not dancing yet,” Springsteen shouted early in the show while pointing out a section

Springsteen gives music history lesson at SXSW



Bruce Springsteen performs with the E Street Band during the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas on Thursday, March 15, 2012.

of sitting fans. “Get your asses out of those seats. This is a dance party!”

Along with new songs “Wrecking Ball,” “We Take Care of Our Own” and “Shackled and Drawn” from his 17th studio album, which debuted at No. 1 in 14 countries after release last week, Springsteen played a handful of old favorites. That included a scorching version of “The Ghost of Tom Joad” that featured a mind-bending solo by guest guitarist and social activist Tom Morello.

The show was the perfect distillation

of Springsteen’s keynote speech, during which he showed he didn’t need his backing band to bring out his outsized charisma on stage. He took a rapt audience of about 1,000 on a personal music history journey and also gave young rockers salient advice.

“Good morning, good morning, good morning,” Springsteen said after taking the stage at 12:30 p.m. “Why are we up so (expletive) early. How important is this speech if we’re giving it at noon? Every musician in town is asleep, or they will be by the time I fin-

ish this speech.”

He name-checked all the musicians that have inspired him over the years from Elvis to James Brown and Woody Guthrie to Johnny Rotten in the 50-minute speech, which was carried live via Internet stream by NPR.

Among those attending was Juanes, the Colombian rock star who saw Springsteen live for the first time just last Friday at The Apollo. He loved Springsteen’s riff on creativity most of all.

“It was great,” said Juanes, who sang in English in public for the first time dur-

ing a tribute to Guthrie before the speech. “It was like a lesson if you go to a university. He’s got the whole career. I was thinking and thinking, it’s like inside me, many things that he was saying. I feel the same, how we’re so connected.”

Springsteen talked about first seeing Elvis and his pelvis on “The Ed Sullivan Show,” the exquisite agony of Roy Orbison, the way The Beatles, Bob Dylan and The Animals set music free, and the rise of punk rock and soul music as forces of change in the 1970s. He related often hilarious and poignant personal stories about each along the way.

Springsteen also talked about the profound importance of Guthrie and his personal idol Pete Seeger before leading the audience in a sing-along of a rare verse from Guthrie’s “This Land is Your Land,” which he also used to cap the night with the help of members of Arcade Fire, The Low Anthem, Ely and Escovedo.

In closing his speech, he urged all “10,000 bands” in Austin to bring it hard every night - then he went out and did it.

“Here we are in this town, young and old, celebrating each perhaps in our own way a sense of freedom that was Woody’s legacy,” Springsteen said. “So rumble, young musicians, rumble. Open your ears and open your hearts. Don’t take yourself too seriously and take yourself as seriously as death itself. Don’t worry. Worry your ass off. Have ironclad confidence, but doubt. It keeps you awake and alert. ... And when you walk on stage tonight to bring the noise, treat it like it’s all we have. And then remember it’s only rock ‘n’ roll.”

NEW YORK (AP)—An exhibit that opened Thursday offered New Yorkers a rare glimpse of life inside North Korea, including children singing in a theater, stark views of Pyongyang at dusk and North Koreans bowing before a monument of the nation’s founder, Kim Il Sung.

“Windows on North Korea: Photographs From the DPRK,” is a joint exhibition by The Associated Press and the state-run Korean Central News Agency, and features a mix of archival and contemporary images.

The show was timed to open before the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kim Il Sung on April 15 and comes two months after the AP expanded its operations in Pyongyang to include writers and photojournalists. The AP became the first international news organization to have a full-time presence in the secretive communist country when it opened a video bureau in 2006.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the United States have never had formal diplomatic relations, and the two nations have experienced tensions over the years, particularly over Pyongyang’s nuclear ambitions. North Korea has tested two atomic devices in the past six years.

Tensions have recently eased somewhat. Late last month, the United States and North Korea announced an agreement that calls for Pyongyang to

Photo show offers rare glimpse of life in N. Korea

freeze its nuclear activities in exchange for food aid. Days later, a senior North Korean nuclear envoy traveled to the U.S. to attend a university forum while the U.S. and North Korea held more talks in Beijing to finalize the food aid.

“It is our hope that this exhibition would give exhibition-goers visual

understanding of the people, customs, culture and history of the DPRK, thereby helping to deepen mutual understanding and improve the bilateral relations,” Kim Chang Gwang, KCNA’s senior vice president, said in an address at the show’s opening.

Images on display included a 1953

KCNA photograph showing residents helping to rebuild Pyongyang’s central district after the Korean War, AP photos documenting visits by foreign dignitaries, as well as everyday scenes ranging from sunbathers at the beach to shoppers inside a modern department store.



Associated Press Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll, left, and Korean Central News Agency Senior Vice President Kim Chang Gwang tour the gallery during an opening reception for the Window on North Korea: Photographs from the DPRK photo exhibit, Thursday, March 15, 2012, in New York.

The photographs “give us rare views of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, a nation of great interest to the world, though little known,” said Kathleen Carroll, executive editor of the AP.

“In this exhibit, we are offered two perspectives of the DPRK—as viewed by her native daughters and sons from KCNA and by AP journalists visiting to chronicle news and daily life there. We can appreciate the different styles and techniques and points of view,” Carroll said. “These photographs also show us that different people can find common ground,” Carroll said.

Several of the photographs are by AP Chief Asia Photographer David Guttenfelder, who has made many reporting trips to North Korea since 2010.

“Daily life is really what I try to focus on when I’m there. ... It’s unscripted, it’s candid,” Guttenfelder said. “For people to see their own life in other people’s lives, I think it has a lot of power to break down barriers.”

The show also includes images taken by KCNA journalists who participated in a joint workshop in October led by AP instructors. It runs from March 15 to April 13 at The 8th Floor gallery in New York City.

The AP, an independent news cooperative founded in New York and owned by its U.S. newspaper membership, has operations in more than 100 countries and employs nearly 2,500 journalists across the world in 300 locations.

'American Idol' singer out after 'One Sweet Day'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It wasn't such a sweet day for Shannon Magrane on "American Idol."

The 16-year-old vocalist from Tampa, Fla., known for her soaring voice and towering over "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest, was eliminated from the Fox singing

competition Thursday. Magrane was dismissed after reprising her rendition of Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men's "One Sweet Day." She failed to persuade the show's judges to save her from being booted.

"It feels so good standing on this stage," she said after her

elimination.

Magrane was revealed to be among the bottom three vote-getters with 28-year-old teacher Elise Testone, of Charleston, S.C., and 26-year-old disc jockey Erika Van Pelt, of South Kingstown, R.I. The judges, who lauded Testone's soulful performance of Tina Turner's 1983 edition of "Let's Stay Together," were noticeably dissatisfied with the viewers' picks.

"I just feel that the great per-

formances should be rewarded," Jennifer Lopez said.

This week's elimination of Magrane and the disqualification of Jermaine Jones, the 25-year-old vocal instructor from Pine Hill, N.J., who was booted for not revealing that he had outstanding arrest warrants back home in New Jersey, leaves 10 finalists remaining in the competition. They will return to the stage to perform for viewer votes next Wednesday.

BOX OFFICE PREVIEW:

'Jump Street' to leap into 1st



In this image released by Columbia Pictures, Channing Tatum, left, and Jonah Hill are shown in a scene from the film "21 Jump Street."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Disney's mega-budget disappointment "John Carter" is expected to take in only about \$15 million during its second weekend, after a weak \$30 million opening. Overseas reception has been stronger, with more than \$70 million earned so far, but it's probably not enough to pull the Mars adventure out of the red.

Starring Oscar-nominee Jonah Hill and "Vow" heartthrob Channing Tatum, the film is a re-imagining of the series that gave Johnny Depp his start—about young cops sent undercover to bust a high-school drug ring.

"Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" enters its third weekend with a shot at adding 20 million more environmentally-friendly dollars to its ever-greening bank account.

The Universal Pictures release will continue to be the top choice for families, following another impressive mid-week performance, and should wind up with a domestic total of about \$150 million by Sunday night.

Relativity Media's "Act of Valor" will blast its way to around \$4 million, bringing its war chest to about \$60 million.

Prosecutors reject case against Michael Madsen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors say there is insufficient evidence to file charges against Michael Madsen stemming from his arrest last week after a fight with his teenage son.

A district attorney's spokeswoman says a prosecutor rejected filing a misdemeanor cruelty to a child charge Wednesday.

The "Reservoir Dog" and "Kill Bill" star was arrested by sheriff's deputies Friday at his home in Malibu.

Detectives investigated allegations that Madsen was under the influence of alcohol and fought with his son, who did not need medical attention.

He was released on \$100,000 bail.

Disney's mega-budget disappointment "John Carter" is expected to take in only about \$15 million during its second weekend, after a weak \$30 million opening. Overseas reception has been stronger, with more than \$70 million earned so far, but it's probably not enough to pull the Mars adventure out of the red.

Already well in the black is Warner Bros.' "Project X," which will continue to exploit its position for a third weekend as the No. 1 R-rated comedy in the country, adding another \$5 million to \$7 million to its party fund. Made for a reported \$12 million, the story of high school kids trying to build their reputations as the ultimate party hosts should cross the \$50 million mark by Sunday.

Relativity Media's "Act of Valor" will blast its way to around \$4 million, bringing its war chest to about \$60 million.

In this March 14, 2012 image released by Fox, contestant Shannon Magrane performs on the singing competition series, "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

Actor Russell Brand turns himself in to NO police



In this March 4, 2012 file photo, Russell Brand arrives to Amnesty International's "Secret Policeman's Ball" in New York.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Actor Russell Brand turned himself in Thursday afternoon to New Orleans police after an arrest warrant was issued for him on a charge of simple criminal damage to property valued at \$700, authorities said.

Brand posted bond and was released from jail Thursday afternoon, said police spokesman Frank Robertson. Bond had been set at \$5,000, he said.

Police issued the warrant earlier Thursday for Brand, who is in New Orleans to film an untitled movie.

Police spokeswoman Remi Braden on Thursday could not immediately release details of what happened Monday. Celebrity website TMZ said the charges stem from a confrontation with a photographer who was trying to take Brand's photo from a car.

In a Twitter posting on

Wednesday, Brand wrote, "Since Steve Jobs died I cannot bear to see anyone use an iPhone irreverently, what I did was a tribute to his memory."

Neither Brand nor his publicist could immediately be reached for comment.

Brand's film credits include "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "Get Him to the Greek." A judge recently granted him a divorce from singer Katy Perry.

Mandate Pictures, which is producing the untitled comedy in New Orleans, said it is being directed by "Young Adult" and "Juno" writer Diablo Cody.

The film also stars two-time "Dancing With the Stars" champ Julianne Hough, Octavia Spencer, who recently won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in the movie "The Help," as well as Nick Offerman and Holly Hunter.

Man fears woman's divorce is triggered by childhood crush

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: One of my sister's best friends, "Tara," has had a crush on me since we were kids. She's 21 and I'm 25. My sister always knew about it, but never told me. I had a crush on Tara, too, but I was too shy to tell her.



Dear Abby

I moved out of state when I turned 18, but Tara still lives there. She and my sister keep in touch. Now that I'm back in town, Tara has been coming to visit me. We have no physical contact, only verbal. During one of the visits she confessed her crush and so did I.

The trouble is, Tara got married a year ago and has a 2-month-old baby with her husband. She says she hasn't been happy in her marriage and has filed for a divorce. We want to be together, but want to wait for the divorce to be final before starting a relationship.

I suspect that she's only divorcing her husband to be with me. Am I being too quick to judge? Is it a bad idea to be with her? Should we just remain good friends? I need a woman's opinion.

UNCERTAIN IN TEXAS

DEAR UNCERTAIN: If you and Tara are serious about not starting a relationship until her divorce is final, then the answers to your questions will become apparent during that process. But please remember, ending her marriage will probably not cause her husband to vanish into the ether. Because he's the father of her baby, he will be part of your lives forever.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Simon," is a workaholic. I didn't know him long before I married him, which was a mistake. He never adapted to being part of a couple. His rewards all came from work—the paychecks, kudos from clients and fellow employees, and others saying what a good provider he was. He bought our kids' love with presents, not presence.

He was gone at dawn, came home after the kids were in bed, volunteered to work on his "off" days and usually stayed later than scheduled. He kept busy with everyone and everything except us. I raised our children alone and worked outside the home as well. I took them to their sports events, extra activities and to the synagogue. We didn't need the "extra" money, but he was never satisfied, always wanting more. I was faithful to a ghost, living alone and crying for too long. After 30 years I realized I didn't miss him anymore. He had broken my heart and fractured my dreams.

It's too late for me to start again and find love. Abby, tell young wives to trust their hearts and priorities. They deserve warmth, not cold cash.

ALONE NOW BY CHOICE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ALONE: What a sad story. You married someone who may have had such an overwhelming fear of poverty that he sacrificed the joys of family for financial security. While you may not have had romance, I'm sure you have earned the love of your children. Allow yourself to enjoy what your husband has accumulated.

And if you've had enough of solitude, consider this: It's never too late to find love. People of every age do it every day, but first you need to find it within yourself. Unless you do, your bitterness will spill over onto every relationship you have.

■ ■ ■

TO MY IRISH READERS:

"May the most you wish for

"be the least you get.

"May the best times you've ever had

"be the worst you will ever see."

Happy St. Patrick's Day!—LOVE, ABBY

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

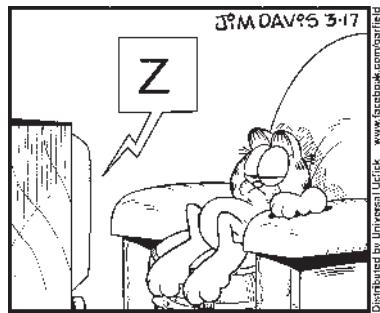
Calvin and Hobbes



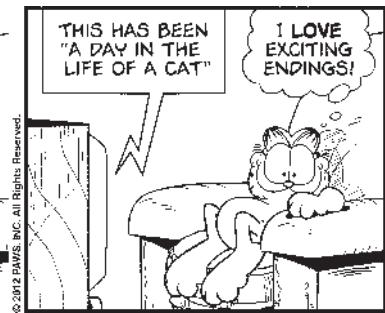
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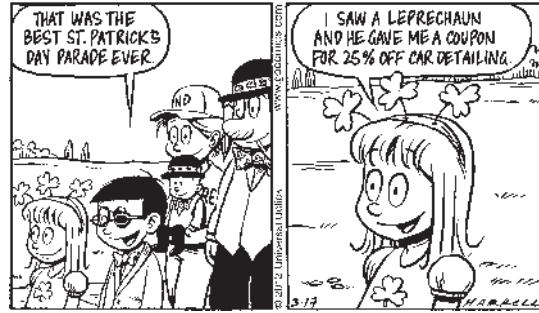
Garfield®



By Jim Davis



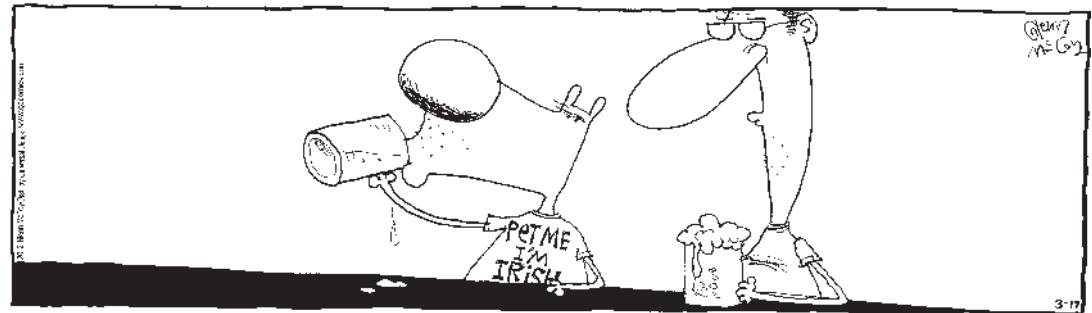
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Early bird?	35 Halt
4 Put an end to	36 Shriner's chapeau
8 Move like a butterfly	37 Proscription
12 Second person	38 Quite serious
13 Tittle	45 Elliptical
14 Old Italian money	46 Start over
15 Eternally, in verse	47 Curved path
16 Use a swizzle stick	48 Missile shelter
17 Many millennia	49 Farmer's home?
18 Sloshed	50 Homer's interjection
21 Wet wriggler	51 Valhalla VIP
22 Rotation duration	52 Terrier type
23 Untamed	53 Past
26 "Holy cow!"	35 Halt
27 Peach stone	36 Shriner's chapeau
30 Off	37 Proscription
31 Car wash option	38 Quite serious
32 Apportion	45 Elliptical
33 S dispenser	46 Start over
34 Concealed	47 Curved path
Solution time: 27 mins.	

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mia Hamm, 40; Rob Lowe, 48; Gary Sinise, 57; Kurt Russell, 61.

Happy Birthday: Call in favors and set new standards. The reforms you implement personally and professionally will pay off. Don't take on responsibilities that aren't yours or let a difficult partnership hold you back. Re-evaluate your connections with the people around you and make whatever changes are necessary to clear a path to success. Your numbers are 1, 6, 15, 26, 28, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use your charm and intellect to get what you want. A difficult relationship can be eased if you offer assistance without criticism. Force will backfire, and walking away won't bring resolution. Do your best without making a fuss. ☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may try to make you look bad. Don't get riled up or show any sign of weakness. Put greater emphasis on being your best and improving your personal relationships. Travel or physical activity will make you feel better. ☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do whatever it takes to get the most for the least. Helping someone will benefit you in turn. An unusual event will spark your interest and lead to a new way of approaching an old idea that failed in the past. ☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Go over finances, contracts or any legal or medical matters that need your attention. A couple of changes should be made before you take on a challenging task. You may want to re-

consider to what degree you are willing to get involved. ☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Consider what you are up against before you promise to take on a difficult assignment. You need to know that you have a chance to succeed and have a plan in place in order to proceed. You'll face criticism if you aren't prepared. ☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't allow someone with charisma and unusual ideas to talk you into spending. Use your time wisely, nurturing an important relationship or taking care of your needs. Love is in the stars, and emotional issues can be resolved. ☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be torn between what you should do and what others want you to do. Trying to please everyone will lead to financial problems. Stick to your budget. Shop around and you'll find a way to satisfy everyone without going into debt. ☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out and join in. Physical activity will stimulate you and encourage greater involvement in organizations that will allow you to meet progressive and productive people. Expand your thoughts and plans. A partnership will lead to more options. ☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick to your game plan. Do what you can to make your home and family life better. Don't allow anyone to take advantage of you. A problem while traveling or with information you are given will set you back. Do your own research. ☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Go over finances, contracts or any legal or medical matters that need your attention. A couple of changes should be made before you take on a challenging task. You may want to re-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid making impulsive decisions or being too quick to offer assistance. Charity begins at home, so put time and effort into your personal relationships and your surroundings. A good environment will promote stability. ☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone one will play with your emotions by making unrealistic promises. Slow down and think matters through carefully. You are best to be responsible for your own actions rather than allowing someone else to make decisions for you. ☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer your help and you will attract beneficial allies. Set the stage for the future by being open and honest about your intentions. Update your resume and make arrangements to discuss your professional plans with someone who can help. ☀️

Birthday Baby: You have plenty of stamina. You are proud, precise and reliable.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	9		1	5	9	4	1
2			6		8		
	4						
5		7		6			
3		5		4			
2	4		6		8		
1	3		7		6		
4	5		2	8	1	2	6

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	6	8	7	9	4	2	3
4	8	3	1	5	2	9	7	6
9	2	7	4	6	3	8	1	5
2	7	1	5	4	8	3	6	9
3	6	4	7	9	1	5	8	2
8	9	5	3	2	6	7	4	1
5	3	8	6	1	4	2	9	7
7	1	2	9	8	5	6	3	4
6	4	9	2	3	7	1	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Difficulty Level ****

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LUCKY CHARMS

P	D	P	H	O	E	N	I	X	S	Y	E	K	F	F
L	R	H	O	L	L	O	P	A	L	O	C	K	E	T
I	E	O	E	X	C	A	L	I	B	U	R	N	A	N
G	A	P	T	N	R	E	V	O	L	C	G	S	T	A
H	M	E	R	E	I	N	E	V	E	S	I	R	H	D
T	W	N	C	E	C	A	R	E	H	E	E	R	E	N
N	E	U	I	U	C	T	I	U	R	D	E	P	R	E
I	A	T	T	Q	A	H	I	R	C	B	E	D	S	P
N	V	R	S	W	D	C	A	O	M	N	N	R	T	R
G	E	O	Y	A	E	H	R	U	N	○	○	I	N	E
B	R	F	M	L	D	A	N	Y	N	C	B	B	S	V
O	E	A	E	D	L	P	L	E	H	B	H	L	S	E
L	S	A	U	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	S	A	O	N
T	F	B	D	P	O	W	E	R	H	O	I	D	R	T
T	A	L	I	S	M	A	N	S	R	N	W	Y	C	M

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Apollo, Beads, Bird, Bolt, Buddha, Charm, Circle, Clover, Cross, Crystal, Dreamweaver, Excalibur, Feathers, Feng Shui, Fortune, Help, Hera, Hope, Keys, Lady, Leaf, Leprechaun, Lightning, Locket, Mystic, Number, Pendant, Penny, Phoenix, Power, Prevent, Protection, Queen, Rabbit, Red Coral, Samadhi, Seven, Sierra, Talismans, Wealth, Wishbone
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STUMPED?

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

A	B	D	E
G	H	I	J
L	M	N	O
Q	R	S	T
V	W	X	Y

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Joe-Ann J. Hernaez	FCD-DI CIVIL Petitioner	ACTION
] NO. 11-0176
vs.		VS.] SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Janice F. Hernaez	Respondent,	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 230 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court



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Howard waives opt-out clause, staying with Magic



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Magic center Dwight Howard has finally put an end to the back-and-forth NBA roller-coaster ride that he had taken Orlando on for the past four months.

At least temporarily.

Howard's 11th-hour decision before Thursday's trade deadline to waive the early termination option in his contract means he has a deal with the only franchise he's known at least through next season.

"I'm glad this is finally over," Howard said at a news conference to announce the new pact. "...It's not as easy as some people think. It's been very hard. We're talking a career-changing event. Most people don't see that."

"I'm very loyal and I've always put loyalty above anything."

But loyalty only goes so far, the Magic wanted it in writing.

Had Howard not signed the papers, he would have been gone.

"It was real," Orlando general manager Otis Smith said of the possibility of dealing Howard before he signed the waiver. "We weren't rolling the dice."

But unless the Howard and the Magic can reach a long-term deal before next season begins, they're start right where they left off before Thursday. And it hasn't been pretty.

The Magic organization trudged through repeated closed door waffling on Howard's part about a desire to play with multiple teams and players, the city hosted an awkward All-Star weekend and pacifying a patient fan base.

Teammates have been frustrated and the situation has had an already intense Stan Van Gundy ready to blow a gasket having to answer—or refusing to answer—daily questions about Howard's status.

Even Howard's mother chimed in at one point during the drama, saying that she thought her son should remain in Orlando.

The saga continued until just hours before the trade deadline.

It was originally thought by both the Magic and league office that both Howard and agent Dan Fegan had to sign the forms. But turns out only Howard's signature was needed, opening the door for one more possible change of heart.

Though he had previously alluded to "getting bad advice" from people around him, Howard refused to touch the subject Thursday.

"It doesn't matter at this point," he said.

Howard said he didn't think he'd had a full night's sleep since making his original trade demand. He offered an apology to Magic fans for the back-and-forth ordeal, but not for taking his due diligence to make it.

"There's no decision about your life that you're gonna



The Magic are 28-16 this season and seven games behind first-place Chicago. And despite everything Howard is averaging 21.2 points and a career-best 15.2 rebounds.

"Now we can get back to playing basketball and having some peace and trying to win a championship," said Howard. "I feel like we have a chance to win want and I didn't feel like either one of us (he or the organization) should give that up."

Howard said repeatedly Thursday he was both relieved and expressed a desire to make this a championship year for Orlando to make up for the off-court storms.

But with no long-term commitment how long the calm will last is certainly still an open proposition.

Unless Smith and Magic CEO Alex Martins can add pieces around Howard between now and the summer of 2013, this entire ordeal is set to play out one more time. Then there won't be an extra year to lean on.

The Magic didn't make player moves Thursday, but Smith said improving the roster and resigning Howard go hand-in-hand.

The Magic also would appear to have the advantage in signing Howard long-term because of provisions in the league's new collective bargaining agreement give the Magic the ability to offer Howard \$30 million more than any other team if he becomes a free agent.

Orlando can offer him a five-year contract extension with 7.5 percent annual raises, while other teams are capped at offering a four-year pact with only 4.5 percent raises.

Martins, who has only been the Magic CEO since the pre-season, said that part of the process was building a new relationship with Howard that he didn't have before.

Martins said his focus will be on making Orlando what Howard needs it to be in hopes of getting the center to sign a long-term deal.

But they can't come to an agreement, Howard could still be leaving Orlando—just at a later date.

Martins said having experienced O'Neal walk away in 1996, like his GM, was going to put the Magic first no matter what.

"History plays a role in everything...and we were not going to suffer the same thing we did in the mid-90s," he said. "But if Dwight made a different decision, we were prepared."

"Loyalty is hard to find...he's gotta be commended for the loyalty he's showing here."

Howard said his isn't concerned with the end of the next season.

"When the time comes we'll deal with it then," Howard said. "I have to put my trust in Alex and Otis...I want to win a championship and that's the only thing that matters."

Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard answers questions during a news conference, Thursday, March 15, 2012, in Orlando, Fla.

John Wall leads Wizards to win after trade

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—John Wall had 26 points and 12 assists to lead the Washington Wizards to a 99-89 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Thursday, just hours after making a multiplayer deal at the NBA trade deadline.

Roger Mason scored 17 of his season-high 19 points in the second half to help the Wizards end a three-game losing streak and win for only the 10th time this season.

Chris Kaman scored 20 points for the Hornets, who erased a 16-point deficit and took a brief lead in the fourth quarter only to watch Mason hit three 3-pointers during a 13-0 Washington run that put the game away.

Earlier in the day, Washington traded guard Nick Young and centers JaVale McGee and Ronny Turiaf to Denver as part of a three-team deal.

Mavericks 101, Bobcats 96

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored

27 points as the Mavericks rallied from 14 points down in the second quarter to beat last-placed Charlotte.

The Mavericks won their second straight game, although the victories have come against woeful Washington and Charlotte.

Jason Terry added 18 points for the Mavs, who had lost eight of their previous 11.

Corey Maggette scored 21 points to lead the Bobcats, who trailed by 17 in the final quarter before pulling to 99-96 on D.J. Augustin's layup with 19 seconds left. But Nowitzki converted two free throws on his team's next possession to clinch the victory.

Thunder 103, Nuggets 90

In Denver, Kevin Durant scored 24 points and Russell Westbrook had 23 as Oklahoma City beat short-handed Denver.

James Harden scored 18 off

the bench for the Thunder, who bounced back from a loss to Houston at home Monday.

Andre Miller had 17 to lead the Nuggets, who played the game while a trade sending Nene to Washington for JaVale McGee and Ronny Turiaf was finalized.

Denver signed Nene to a new five-year, \$67 million contract in December, and the Brazilian was averaging 13.4 points and 7.4 rebounds in an injury-plagued season. But the recent play of rookie forward Kenneth Faried made Nene expendable.

Jazz 111, Timberwolves 105, OT

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 18 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and Paul Millsap made a flurry of key plays in the final minute to lead Utah.

Millsap stole the ball twice in the final minute of overtime, made a key jumper and fed Hayward for a dunk as Utah

waived his opt-out provision.

Howard said he made his decision to waive the early termination clause in the hours after the Magic's loss to San Antonio Wednesday night and then notified the team via phone calls and text messages while on the team plane.

His teammates were apparently unaware of the final change

scored the final six points.

Millsap finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high eight steals. Devin Harris scored 18 points and Alec Burks had a career-best 15.

Kevin Love had 25 points and 16 rebounds to lead Minnesota.

Suns 91, Clippers 87

In Los Angeles, Shannon Brown scored a season-high 21 points, including four free throws in the final 1:33, to help short-handed Phoenix end a four-game road losing streak.

Channing Frye had 12 points for Phoenix and Jared Dudley added 11 points and six rebounds.

Sebastian Telfair had seven points and eight assists in place of starting point guard Steve Nash, who was rested due to the Suns playing three games in three nights.

Blake Griffin had 25 points and eight rebounds for the Clippers.

of heart, with Magic guard Chris Duhon posting on his Twitter account "Off to Orlando and the waiting game begins" shortly after the Spurs' game.

But now Howard wants to put all that behind them.

Howard says he's "all in" now and ready to give the organization a full season to improve the roster going forward.

Syracuse avoids being first No. 1 to lose to 16



P I T T S -
B U R G H
(AP)—

Syracuse was missing its starting center North Carolina-Asheville thought the Orange got help from three men in striped shirts.

With Syracuse facing the kind of NCAA tournament history no team wants to make, the top-seeded Orange rallied for a 72-65 victory Thursday in the second round of the East Regional.

Two calls by the officials had the sellout crowd of 18,927 at Consol Energy Center—except for those wearing orange—boiling throughout the final minute but it didn't matter.

Syracuse made it 109-0 for No. 1 seeds against No. 16s since the NCAA went to a field of 64 in 1985.

"I don't think luck had anything to do with this game today," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said, "and I think the better team won."

The Orange were staring at NCAA tournament history. A No. 1 seed has never lost to a No. 16 seed, and they were trailing North Carolina-Asheville with just over 6 minutes to play.

"We gave it everything we had. We battled the best that we could," Asheville coach Eddie Biedenbach said. "These guys are great. They deserved a better fate than they had today."

Syracuse, which won the national championship in 2003, had already made negative history in the tournament, becoming the first No. 2 seed to lose to a 15 when it fell 73-69 to Richmond in 1991.

The Orange managed to avoid adding another black mark by holding Asheville to one field goal over the final minute while they went 6 of 7 from the free throw line.

Syracuse was playing without 7-foot center Fab Melo, who was declared ineligible for academic reasons by the school and will miss the tournament.

"The fact that this game was close had nothing—nothing—to do with the center position," Boeheim said.

Syracuse (32-2) will play eighth-seeded Kansas State in the third round on Saturday. The Wildcats beat Southern Mississippi, 70-64.

The Bulldogs (24-10), who

talked Wednesday about pulling off the upset, were led by J.P. Primm's 18 points.

They led 34-30 at halftime—the third 16 to do that—but the Orange took the lead for good with 6:17 left on a turnaround jumper by reserve James Southerland, who had 15 points and a season-high eight rebounds.

"James has to continue to make the shots and I think he will," Syracuse guard Scoop Jardine said. "I'm happy for him because he's a big part of our offense and today he showed it."

Southerland, who scored 13 points in the second half, had three of the Orange's five 3-pointers.

"James came in, gave us a huge lift off the bench," Boeheim said of the 6-foot-8 junior.

The Bulldogs got within three points three times in the final 1:04 but could get no closer as Syracuse made its free throws and the officials made a couple of controversial calls.

The first call that caused the crowd to react was a lane violation with 1:20 left. Jardine missed the front end of a 1-and-1 but Primm was called for passing the head of the key before Jardine let the shot go. Jardine got to shoot the front end again, made it, and made the second for a 64-58 lead.

"They gave me a second chance to make the shot and I made it," Jardine said. "I got myself into a rhythm. I made every free throw from there on out because I do what I practice and believed in myself at that time and made the shots for us."

Primm said: "They showed it on the replay, I think the crowd let him know that it wasn't the right call. ... Like I said, when it gets crunch time like that, like I say, everyone is human."

With 35 seconds left and the Orange leading 66-63, the ball appeared to go out of bounds off Syracuse's Brandon Triche but the officials pointed the other way and gave it to the Orange. Jardine made two free throws a second later.

Coordinator of Officiating John Adams said he would have given the ball to UNC Asheville on the inbounds play.

"The out of bounds is not reviewable and it is not a play we would discuss," official Ed Corbett told a pool reporter. "I'm



Syracuse's James Southerland (43) looks to pass around UNC-Asheville's Matt Dickey during the second half of an East Regional NCAA tournament second-round college basketball game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, March 15, 2012.

not going to comment further because it is a judgment call. It was a clear (lane) violation. The player released early, before the ball hit the rim. We've since watched the replay 20 times and it was the right call."

Boeheim had his own take on the play with Triche.

"First of all, all the noise about the ball going out of bounds, I mean, Triche got pushed. That's why it went out of bounds," he said. "Maybe they missed the out of bounds, they missed the foul call. Those things equal out."

VCU (29-8) will face No. 4 Indiana on Saturday.

many as 13 in the second half, but Wichita State closed to 54-53 on Garrett Stutz's lay-up with 5:39 left. Troy Daniels hit a three-pointer for the Rams, and Joe Ragland answered with his own for the Shockers.

Toure Murry made a three that gave Wichita State the lead, but Burgess came back with his big shot to give the Rams a 60-59 edge. Darius Theus' runner from about six feet provided the final margin.

In Portland, Jordan Hulls went on a second-half shooting spree and finished with 22 points for Indiana (26-8), making its return after a four-year tournament absence.

Yup, VCU is back again.

Bradford Burgess hit a key three-pointer with 1:33 left and Smart coached the 12th-seeded Rams to another March upset, holding off the Shockers, 62-59, in the South Regional on Thursday.

The Rams (29-6) led by as

No. 12 VCU 62, No. 5 Wichita St. 59

In Portland, Ore., Shaka Smart and Co. pulled off the first major surprise of the NCAA tournament.

Yup, VCU is back again.

In Portland, Jordan Hulls went on a second-half shooting spree and finished with 22 points for Indiana (26-8), making its return after a four-year tournament absence.

No. 4 Indiana 79, No. 13 New Mexico State 66

In Portland, Terrence Jones had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Doron Lamb scored 16 for Kentucky (33-2). The

Harrington's previous best was a 62 three times, most recently at the 2009 Portugal Masters. He also had a 61 at the Nedbank Challenge in 2001, an unofficial event. It was not recognized as a course record because of preferred lies.

Not only was Harrington three shots better than anyone else, it was nearly 8.7 shots better than the course average.

Will Claxton birdied the 18th for a 64, a score that would have

put him atop the leaderboard at Innisbrook the last seven years. John Senden, coming off a 65 in the final round at Doral, was in a large group at 66 that included William McGirt and 51-year-old Kenny Perry, making a rare appearance on the PGA Tour.

Doral winner Justin Rose and Luke Donald were at 67, while defending champion Gary Woodland opened with a 68.

Did anyone see a 61 at Innisbrook?

"I did. I watched it," said Geoff Ogilvy, who played alongside Harrington. "On the

first tee, I didn't see 61. But after you see it done ... the only really, completely unreasonable birdie was on the 17th. There was never any stress."

That birdie putt on the 17th was from 75 feet, and Harrington said it looked good for the last 15 feet.

But if there was one putt that reminded him how everything was falling his way, it was the 6-foot birdie on the 16th, atop a crown in such a way that Harrington wasn't sure which way it was going to break. He guessed right.

No. 4 Wisconsin 73, No. 13 Montana 49

In Albuquerque, Ryan Evans scored 18 points and Jordan Taylor added 17 points and six assists for Wisconsin (25-9), which will play Vanderbilt on Saturday.

No. 5 Vanderbilt 79, No. 12 Harvard 70

In Albuquerque, John Jenkins made all six of his free throws down the stretch and finished with 27 points to help Vanderbilt (25-10) hold off Harvard in a game billed as "The Brain Bowl."

No. 2 Ohio State 78, No. 15 Loyola, Md. 59

In Pittsburgh, Deshaun Thomas scored a career-high 31 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead OSU (28-7), which faces No. 7 Gonzaga on Saturday.

No. 7 Gonzaga 77, No. 10 West Virginia 54

In Pittsburgh, Robert Sacre and Gary Bell Jr. scored 14 points apiece for Gonzaga (26-6). West Regional

No. 3 Marquette 88, No. 14 BYU 68

In Louisville, Jae Crowder had 25 points and 16 rebounds, Darius Johnson-Odom scored 12 of his 20 points in the second half, and Marquette (26-7) advanced to play sixth-seeded Murray State in the third round Saturday.

No. 6 Murray State 58, No. 11 Colorado State 41

In Louisville, Isaiah Canaan scored 15 points in Murray State's return to the NCAA tournament after a two-year wait, and Donte Poole added 13 to lead the Racers (31-1).

No. 4 Louisville 69, No. 13 Davidson 62

In Portland, Peyton Siva scored 17 points and Louisville (27-9) advanced to play fifth-seeded New Mexico in the third round.

No. 5 New Mexico 75, No. 12 Long Beach State 68

In Portland, Kendall Williams scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half and bottled up Long Beach State star Casper Ware defensively to help New Mexico (28-6) hold off the 49ers.

Harrington opens with a 61 at Innisbrook

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Padraig Harrington knew he was playing better golf than his scores indicated. He just wasn't expecting the lowest official score of his life, a 10-under 61 to set the course record Thursday in the Transitions Championship.

Harrington took a step toward ending 17 months and 37 tournaments without a victory when he made 10 birdies, including a 75-footer late in his round, to

build a three-shot lead among the early starters at Innisbrook.

"I play better on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday than I do on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday," Harrington said. "I'm trying to stay patient. I know my game is good. One of the hardest things is to wait with confidence. I'm feeling like things are ready to happen. Obviously, today it showed the

potential. Today is a peak. But we'll wait and see what happens over the next number of weeks."

With a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th—how could it not go in the way his day was going?—he broke by one shot the record at the esteemed Copperhead Course at Innisbrook that had been held by Mark Calcavecchia in 2007 and Jeff Sluman in 2004.

first tee, I didn't see 61. But after you see it done ... the only really, completely unreasonable birdie was on the 17th. There was never any stress."

That birdie putt on the 17th was from 75 feet, and Harrington said it looked good for the last 15 feet.

But if there was one putt that reminded him how everything was falling his way, it was the 6-foot birdie on the 16th, atop a crown in such a way that Harrington wasn't sure which way it was going to break. He guessed right.

"I did. I watched it," said Geoff Ogilvy, who played alongside Harrington. "On the

Two-way tie in SEDA A and B-Flame Tree

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Two teams are tied in first place in the A and B-Flame Tree divisions of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association following the conclusion of the most recent matchups.

B-Flame Tree division VFW Post 3457's Good Guys II and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Retsa Sakudi are locked up in first place, while Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Bud Brothers and Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Naked Fish Boyz hold an equal stake of first place over the A Division as a result of Monday's matches.

Meanwhile SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish and Jonny's Try Luck sit alone atop their respective B-Fanihi and Ladies leaderboards.

A Division's Naked Fish Boyz defeated SOS' third-ranked Mixblood Shooters II (38-30), 10-7 at home, and ended up strapped with the Bud



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Naked Fish Boyz, seen here in a file photo, defeated SOS' Bar & Grill's Mixblood Shooters II in Monday's SEDA A Division pairing and are now tied for the top spot with Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Bud Brothers.

Brothers, who managed a, 9-8, road win over SOS' fifth-ranked 101 Proofers (32-36).

The co-leaders share even win-loss slates of 39-29.

Notables included a High In 160 by Primos' Jeff Pangelinan and a High Out 107 by Bud Brothers' Ernie Domingo.

In other results, fourth-ranked Bammy's Sabalu (36-32) defeated VFW's Primos (30-38),

11-6, on the road and its sister squad Celebrity (32-36) downed Sands Bar's Juvy Predators (26-42), 11-6, at home.

Last Thursday, B-Flame Tree's Good Guys II snuck past Bammy's Lilapuching (22-23), 8-7, but a, 9-6, home win for Retsa Sakudi over the 19th Hole Bar's Dart Freaks pushed the latter victor to a share of the lead.

Both winners left Thursday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Retsa Sakudi, seen here in a file photo, defeated 19th Hole Bar's Dart Freaks in last Thursday's SEDA B-Flame Tree matchups to move into first place with co-leader SOS Bar & Grill's Good Guys II.

with identical 25-20 cards, however the other results show it's still anyone's season as Joe's Steakhouse's Skoregazzums (23-22) upset The Water Front's (24-21) third-ranked self titled team, 8-7, in a road match, while Jonny's Rehab (21-24) edged out SOS What U Got (18-27), 8-7, on the road.

Notably, Good Guys II's Jarvin Mendiola posted a High In 120.

Also on Monday, Try Luck routed Joe's Daffodils (24-36), 13-2, to work out a six-game lead over the Ladies field with its league-best record of 46-14.

VFW's B-52's pelted Bammy's Momel Mei (26-34), 12-3, to move all alone in second place, while Naked Fish's third-ranked Man-Amigas (35-25) notched a 10-5 road win over SOS' Daarty Deeds (15-45) and

19th Hole's Team Reapers (28-32) squeaked by Joe's Just Like That (26-34), 8-7.

Try Luck's Aida Laniyo posted a High In 156 and her teammate Matrina Lisua a High Out 146.

Going back again to last Thursday, B-Fanihi's DJ Fish easily defeated Poseidon's One Shot (14-31), 13-2, on the road to improve its overall record to 33-12.

Its sister team SOS Light's Out currently sits five games back in second place after absorbing a 7-8 upset at home to Bammy's DRP 2 (23-22).

Meanwhile, Es'y Kitchen's third-ranked Kitchen Shooters (26-19) went into Jonny's Bar & Grill and knocked off the Adventurers (17-28), 9-6; and Naked Fish Bar & Grill's IT&E Na'Gupu (23-22) triumphed over VFW Post 3457's Duty Gunz (16-29), 10-5, at home.

Notables included a High-In 160 by IT&E Na'Gupu's Freddy Salavaria and a High-Out 106 by Kitchen Shooters' Rolly Morales.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	25	18	.581
Boston	23	19	.548
New York	19	24	.442
New Jersey	15	29	.341
Toronto	14	29	.326
			1 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	31	11	.738	-
Orlando	28	16	.636	4
Atlanta	24	19	.558	7 1/2
Washington	10	32	.238	21
Charlotte	6	36	.143	25

Central Division

Chicago	36	9	.800	-
Indiana	25	16	.610	9
Milwaukee	19	24	.442	16
Cleveland	16	25	.390	18
Detroit	16	27	.372	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
San Antonio	28	13	.683	-
Memphis	24	17	.585	4
Dallas	25	20	.556	5
Houston	24	20	.545	5 1/2
New Orleans	10	34	.227	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	33	10	.767	-
Denver	24	20	.545	9 1/2
Minnesota	22	22	.500	11 /2
Utah	21	22	.488	12
Portland	20	23	.465	13

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	27	16	.628	-
L.A. Clippers	24	18	.571	2 1/2
Phoenix	21	22	.488	6
Golden State	18	22	.450	7 1/2
Sacramento	14	29	.326	13

Yesterday's Games

Washington	99	New Orleans	89
Dallas	101	Charlotte	96
Oklahoma City	103	Denver	90
Utah	111	Minnesota	105
Phoenix	91	L.A. Clippers	87

TRANSITIONS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP)—Scores Thursday from the Transitions Championship, a US PGA Tour event on the 7,340-yard, par-71 Copperhead Course at Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Padraig Harrington	31-30	—61
Will Claxton	33-31	—64
Cameron Tringale	33-33	—66
John Senden	32-34	—66
Kenny Perry	34-32	—66
Jason Dufner	33-33	—66
William McGirt	34-32	—66
Jason Bohn	32-34	—66
Jim Furyk	33-33	—66
Brendon de Jonge	35-32	—67
Stewart Cink	34-33	—67
David Toms	34-33	—67
Joe Ogilvie	34-33	—67
Chris Couch	34-33	—67
Justin Rose	34-33	—67
Luke Donald	33-34	—67
George McNeill	33-34	—67
Robert Garrigus	35-32	—67
Bryce Molder	37-30	—67
Jeff Overton	34-34	—68

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Naked Fish Boyz, seen here in a file photo, defeated SOS' Bar & Grill's Mixblood Shooters II in Monday's SEDA A Division pairing and are now tied for the top spot with Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Bud Brothers.

Brothers, who managed a, 9-8, road win over SOS' fifth-ranked 101 Proofers (32-36). The co-leaders share even win-loss slates of 39-29. Notables included a High In 160 by Primos' Jeff Pangelinan and a High Out 107 by Bud Brothers' Ernie Domingo.

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**Syracuse avoids
being first No. 1
to lose to 16**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Howard waives
opt-out clause,
staying with Magic**

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28 SATURDAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 17-18, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Braves edge Rays in Majors, 9-8

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

The Natibu Tanapag Braves survived the Pacific Amusement Rays, 9-8, in the Saipan Little League's Major Division matchup held last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Also on Sunday the Dandan Comets defeated the Natibu Tanapag Falcons, 10-0, in four innings, the J P O - D P S Dare Program Enforcers shut out the Bank of Saipan Red Sox, 11-0, while the Rays rebounded on Monday against McDonald's, 12-0.

Braves 9, Rays 8

The Braves built a 6-3 lead in the opening frame with a lot of patience at the plate. The Braves managed four walks in the inning and scored off a trio of fielder's choices and some passed balls.



Shell Fielders' Ben Flores, seen here in a file photo from last year's Saipan Major League season, cranks a base hit against the St. Michael's Angels at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

SML season opener slated for March 26

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

Saipan Major League Baseball Association has circled March 26 as the opening day for its 2012 season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



So far, this year's field includes last season's runner-up Brewers, Fielders, Masters, D-9ers, and newcomer Gagu.



Pacific Amusement Rays' Joeny Villagomez, in blue, hustles down toward the first base line in Monday's Major Division matchup against McDonald's at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Rays tied the game briefly with three runs in the second inning that came off a single by Nathaniel Torres, an RBI walk, and an error; but

the Braves reassumed control, 8-6, in the bottom frame with a double by Brandon Pua and an RBI walk.

Rays' Jay Kalen put his team

within a run with a sacrifice fly in the third inning, but the Braves held strong in the final two innings after both squads mustered a run in the fourth frame.

Pua swung 2-for-3 with an RBI, two runs, and a stolen base. Cruz swung 2-for-2 with three RBIs and a run. Babauta went 2-for-2 with two runs and Falcons' Donny Manalo managed to go 2-for-2 against the

**See BRAVES
on Page 27**

Saints win U25 Island-wide Youth caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

The Saints triumphed over the Runnin' Rebels, 37-36, in the championship of the Unified Basketball Association's U25 division Island-wide Youth Basketball Tournament held last weekend at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The team is comprised of L.J. and Luizi Reyes, Wenser Nameilo, Vince Iglesias, Richard Cruz, Joseph Basa, Leo Galarse, Donovan Brennan, Juan Camacho, Travis Eughbanks, Arvin Avila, and Patrick Torres.

The Saints advanced past Othello, 47-25, before enduring an early loss on Saturday to the Rebels, 29-32, but they fought back through the lower bracket on Sunday, eliminating the Rollers, 21-31, and then Ayuyu, 28-25, in the semifinals.

The Rebels advanced to the finals undefeated, knocking off Akerri, 53-34, before dropping the Saints and Ayuyu, 41-31, in



The Saints, seen here in a file photo, topped eight other teams in last weekend's UBA U25 Island-wide Youth Basketball Tournament held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

the upper bracket semis.

Other participating U25 teams included Hi-5 Saipan 1 and Saipan 2.

The event concluded the UBA's three-division series, where as previously reported Mean Machine and Docomo 2 were deemed respective U17 and U15 champions.

Mean Machine's Ralph Francisco, Albert Salas, Joon Lee, Mike Taitano, John Babauta, and Frank Mettao topped four other teams and defeated Docomo 2, 36-34, in the U17 finals held last on March 3, while Docomo 2's Prince Factor, Toshi Pangelinan, J.P. Iglesias, Irvyn Malonzo, Jeron Ano, Renen Lansang, Bryan

Floresca, Justin Cayading, Emerson Feria, Ted Vivero, and William Camacho survived five other squads and defeated Docomo 4 Rollers, 56-38, for the championship last Feb. 19.

All first place teams will be given trophies.

Docomo Pacific and the UBA, **See SAINTS on Page 27**